



さよなら
あれば
開き係なあれば
ださや
ださや
鈴木大輔
月戈
Illustrator



Well then, let me introduce the characters. This is Himenokouji Akiko-san. She's a rank lower in the students' council as the secretary, have smaller breasts, and have test results worse than mine - someone who has not a single point of merit. Ah- the only distinct point about her is that her brother-complex is at an extremely perverted level.

..... Rather than an introduction, that was just you bad-mouthing me isn't it.

Himenokouji Akiko. Secretary of students council. Bro-con.

This is Nikaido Arashi. The president of students council of my school. As you can see, her appearance is as strange as her personality, and her actions are beyond salvation. I just hope she can graduate from the school as quickly as possible, even if it's only a day earlier. Ah, her expulsion will be an OK too.

Ka ka ka. As usual, your words are merciless.

Nikaido Arashi. President of students council. Her sexual desires are strong.



This is Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi-san. As she has just transferred to this school a few days ago, I have absolutely no idea what sort of person she is. For now, her name is really weird, and so is the way she speaks.

Are you a someone who will die unless you bad-mouth someone?

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi. Treasurer of students council. Bokukko^[1].

And finally, this guy is Himenokouji Akito. Even though his official title is 'Deputy Assistant of Secretary', I guess he can be considered to be a rather durable slave.

..... At the very least, use terms like 'errand-boy', or an expression as soft as that. Please.

Well, even though I said slave, I mean that you're a sex-slave so to speak. There should no problem when it comes to your human rights.

No, that was a terrible follow-up. Rather, that's even more of a problem

Himenokouji Akito. Deputy Assistant of Secretary of students council. Akiko's elder brother.



Well then, it is finally time for the main attraction to enter the stage. I am Nasuhara Anastasia. Vice-president of the students council.

..... This is terrible.

Ka ka ka. Indeed, this is terrible.

How should I put it? Generally speaking, that is how it is.

I suppose. Well, this is rather fitting of Nasuhara's style.

Please do not put on such questionable expressions. This duty was pushed onto me this time, so something of this level should be expected. Even though it's like this, I'm actually doing this in a discreet manner.

Nasuhara Anastasia. Vice-president of students council. Hard to get long with.

Notes

1. 僕つ娘, a girl who refers herself as *boku*.

Chapter 1

Part1: 8th April, AM7:00 (One day after the opening ceremony)

"Brother-complex is indeed inconvenient, but it is definitely not a curse!"

It was morning at the dining table in the caretaker's room of the St. Ririana Academy's students' hostel.

My rather incompetent sister suddenly said that with her eyebrows arching up.

"Many have the misconception that having a brother-complex = having a curse. There are even some narrow minded people who firmly believes that brother-complex is some sort of mental illness. People that had committed such serious errors have repeatedly appeared, and that is the sad truth. But, even so, we should never give in. We should firmly maintain our stance, and fight against such prejudice to the end."

"....."

Upon hearing my sister's grand speech all of the sudden, I stopped my hands from eating breakfast,

"Well, I don't really understand what you are talking about, but I'll just say this: brother-complex is not something that wonderful, alright? You can't openly be in love."

"Hmph. It's something that I already know..... but Onii-chan is one of those pitiful people who is plagued by the sickness called common sense. That is probably the only weakness of my brother whom I am deeply in love with."

"But if you are a bro-con, your will not be able to have healthy children, right? The fact is, the union of genes between two closely related relatives will result in the hindrance of the development of future generations. That had been already proven by both history and science."

"Yes, that! I was about to talk about that!"

"Stop waving your fist and chopsticks about. That's rude."

"It is this very taboo that makes such passionate love even more exciting!"

My sister ignored my reminders and continued on.

"I dare say this: brother-complex is a gift from god - an irreplaceable talent."

"Aha."

"Indeed, I had occasionally suffered from gratuitous criticisms due of the fact that I am a bro-con. There are occasions when I am treated unfairly by people subconsciously as well, and so I'm unable to take revenge on them. I have to admit, this is something rather inconvenient in regards to my everyday life."

"Rather than talking about all these things, why are you not eating? The food will become cold if you don't eat them quickly, you know?"

"But, you cannot say that it's a curse or anything! Everyone doesn't know what sort of happiness I had been enjoying everyday due to me loving Onii-chan a lot! As someone who treats my blood-related brother as a member of the opposite sex and loving him deeply for that, they had no idea what sort of glorious life I have been living!"

"..... You know, it shouldn't matter even if the opposite party is not me, right? The amount of happiness that you feel will be the same even if the other half is not blood-related to you."

"No, you are totally wrong! It is against morals, but that's the perfect reason why we can savor absolute happiness! Also, would anyone find a romance enchanting if it was smooth sailing? The answer is nope, absolutely no one!"

"Ara. This morning's rice is really delicious."

I had realized this conversation will not end anytime soon.

I ignored my sister's speech, and changed the subject.

"Each and every grain of rice is plump and glossy. It is obviously different from those of the past. Could it be that you had switched to another type of rice?"

"Please Onii-chan. This tactic will no longer work, you know?"

Che che che, my sister wiggled her index finger.



"Akiko had already experienced it personally,. The skill that Onii-chan is proud of, which is to change the subject of the conversation. That's right, if you think that I'll always fall for that, then you are terribly wrong."

"Upon closer inspection, you had mixed various types of rice into this, right?"

"Huh!? You found out!?"

My sister showed an expression half in shock and half in glee.

"I had planned to be secretive about it, but who would have thought that it will be found out that quickly..... as expected from Onii-chan."

"This is probably..... some sort of inexpensive rice, right?"

"Ah, you are sharp. Yes, that's how it is. I used a type of really ordinary rice that cost five hundred yen per kilogram."

"Eh..... Even so, this rice is really delicious."

"Yes. Actually, it is not just the expensive types of rice that are delicious."

"Uhuh. Meaning to say, it is something like blending coffee, right?"

"As expected of Onii-chan. It is just as you have said."

"I see. It's no wonder I find the taste so intriguing. You are really wonderful to be able to make 1+1 equal to 3 and even 4."

"Ehehe. Thanks for your compliments."

"Come to think of it, where did you learn such techniques from? Did the Arisugawa family actually teach you stuff like these as well?"

"No, how can that be? This is taught by the boss of the rice shop whom I have gotten familiar with recently. Since the Arigusawa has their lofty reputations to uphold, they will only use organic rice of the highest quality. Actually, the typical rice can be as delicious as this with just some effort put into it..... those people's minds are really rigid."

"..... Sigh, but I am really sorry to have caused you to undergo such troubles."

"? Is anything wrong?"

"No, it is just that our family budget is really tight. You learned techniques like these because you want to lessen the burden on us, even if it is just a little. Isn't that so? If only I can earn more money, then it will be easier for you as well."

"Onii-chan, what are you saying? I am extremely satisfied with our current lifestyle, and I am really grateful to Onii-chan for living together with me everyday. That is my responsibility as your wife to be as thrifty as possible, so that we can work towards a better life. Onii-chan should focus on his work, while I focus on the housework - isn't this wonderful?"

"Hmm I guess. Although I had spotted a certain term that is quite wrong. Well, so that is how it is huh. I'm feeling a lot better if you put it that way. You are really a capable younger sister, Akiko."

"Ehehe, thank you. Well, Onii-chan, please eat it before it gets cold. There is still more, you know?"

"Mmm. Since it is so delicious, I'll just eat slightly more."

"Alright, please eat to your heart's content. Also, I had spent extra effort on the miso soup as well, did you notice that?"

"Ohhh? What did you do?"

"Kuku. Please take a guess."

"Uhh- Hmm.....Since you've said so, the saltiness is slightly richer than usual..... No, could the secret be in this rather dark color? Uhh- Hmm....."

.....

.....

.....

"-Oh. It is this time already?"

"Ah, it really is. We had accidentally chatted too much."

"We'll be late if we don't pick up our pace."

"It's alright, Onii-chan, please go to school first. I'll go after clearing the dishes. It's my turn to be washing the dishes today."

"Oh. I am really sorry about that."

"Don't put it to heart. I really want to go to school with Onii-chan together - but it will not do if we do not follow on these rules."

"Mmm yeah. That law-abiding attitude of yours is really dependable."

"No, it's nothing like that."

"Mmm, Well then-"

I stood up from the short table, and checked my looks using the mirror on the ground.

Fact is, even till now, my body was still not used to wearing St. Ririana Academy's rather old-fashioned uniform.

Today is my first day of work as a member of the students council. Even though being given the post of deputy assistant of secretary (errand boy) is not something out of my own will. It won't do if someone like me, who had just transferred into the school, played around with my duties. I'll be an utter embarrassment for my sister, who is the secretary. As her elder brother, I don't wish for anything like that to happen.

"Well, then, I'll be leaving."

"Alright. Be careful, Onii-chan."

Opening the huge door of the wooden seventy-years-old shabby apartment, I was welcomed by the winds of late spring.

Today is a clear day that is almost cloudless. The chance of rain is almost 0%.

As for myself, Himenokouji Akito, who is talking his first step into a new chapter of his life, this is definitely something good,

"Uhh, no — that's right!"

My sister chased up to me as I was walking out of the hostel. She was breathless.

"Hold on a second Onii-chan! I am not done with my speech!"

"Hmm? I had listened to you talking quite a bit about the methods of mixing rice as well as the secrets of the miso soup."

"Not those things! It's the topic about how being a bro-con brings about inconveniences, but it is definitely not a curse!"

My sister just rushed onto the streets while still wearing her apron, with her eyes becoming that of an inverted triangle,

"Really..... Onii-chan you're too much. You had deliberately ran away from your cute sister, who was trying to tell you something important, by changing the subject. I have said that I'll not fall for it again, right?"

"Mmm, I guess you did say something like that. But you had bitten at my bait almost at full force, you know? Just now."

"Ignore that for the moment!"

She pointed at me with a *swoosh*.

"Please listen to me carefully, because this is something important! You have to remain here and not move an inch till you have listened to everything that I have to say-"

"Well then, lets just leave it at that. I am short of time."

"Wa-!? You are turning your back towards me and leaving in a hurry after saying that!? That's enough, there is no use running. With my godly speed that can run fifty meters in a mere six seconds, it will be easy for me to catch up to Onii-chan-"

"Oh. Right, right. You are to clear up the dishes immediately. No leaving them for later. Your brother dislikes children who does not follow the rules, you know."

"T-That's too much! You had planned to trap me with that all along!? Onii-chan you're an idiot! You're mean!"

I pretended not to hear the protests of my sister. I increased the pace of my steps, and walked hurriedly.

..... Well well.

I have a feeling today is going to be a rather messy day.

Part 2: Same day, AM7:30

Sixteen years old. Male.

Second year of high school.

Ordinary height and weight. Average looks. Grades are neither good nor bad.

Current living together with my bro-con sister, who is aptly described with the adjective 'extreme' - aside from that, I have nothing that will attract the attention of others. I am your typical uninteresting guy.

That was everything about me, Himenokouji Akito. Up till yesterday.

"Which means it is because of that? We had harshly ridiculed your sister about her brother-complex yesterday, isn't that so?"

While on route to St. Ririana Academy.

After picking my call, my friend, Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi, chuckled while saying that.

"That is because me, Kaichou and Fuku-kaichou ostracized Akiko with the reason that she is your blood-related sister. For her, she will want to reestablish her self-identity. Or rather, she needs to have some sort of theory to once again establish her own legitimacy."

"Ah- so that's how it is....."

I nodded my head while pressing my cellphone against my ear.

"Brother-complex is indeed inconvenient, but it is not a curse!"

My sister's sudden outburst of that line, which sounded like a certain slogan of a rather popular book - so that's the reason behind it.

Which means to say.

On the day of the opening ceremony, due to the reason of her being blood-related to me, my sister had endured condemnation from them, though it was rather close to persecution.

As someone who openly calls herself as a bro-con and has the resolute intention of viewing me as a member of the opposite sex, she would have to come up with some sort of plans to stage a comeback by her own means.

"Well, whatever. But, do not go overboard with the teasing, Ginbe. Even if she is like this, she is still my precious little sister."

"Well well. As someone who was teasing your sister alongside with us, you are in no position to talk."

"No, umm. Well....."

"Fufu, you don't have to be that secretive about it. I understand very well what you are

thinking. You are forcing yourself to put on that sort of attitude. You had kept a certain distance away from your lil sister's brother-complex because you want to clarify your stand to the public, right?"

"..... Well, it's just as you had said."

"It's not like we had only known each other for a day or two. You can't hide such things from me."

"Then again, what's the meaning of this? Please stop saying those nasty things if you already know what's going on."

"Fufu, please don't say that. Making fun of your pain is one of the few hobbies of mine."



With that said, Ginbe chuckled again.

Well, you can almost say that it is the only shortcoming of Ginbe, who is a mysterious beauty due to her silver hair and emerald eyes. She is actually a multi-talented person - it would be great if she could have more decent hobbies.

"Fufu, what's wrong, Akito? Even though we are separated through the phones, I can still clearly see the expression of your face right now - it's as if you have just eaten an extremely sour dried plum."

"How very irritating..... Well, whatever, I am prepared to endure through it anyway."

"Endure what?"

"That hobby of yours is something I can't compliment you for even if I am being very courteous about it. Well, I'll just turn a blind eye to the details, because that you are not only my friend, but also my benefactor."

"Ahhh. That's how you see me?"

"Well of course. Didn't you deliberately moved from Kyoto to Tokyo because you are worried about me? I was rather shocked..... but to be truthful, I am really happy."

The reason she had not informed me about her transfer to St. Ririana - "it is so that I can shock you, and to have my small revenge on you" - that was how Ginbe had put it. I do know very clearly, that it is not the truth.

"Really, Ginbe, you are the perfect friend. I wish to maintain our friendship for life. If possible, if you can continue to be my good friend and to get along with me as always..... There is nothing that will make me happier than that."

"....."

Hmm?

Huh?

I had actually channeled in all my grateful feelings and said such embarrassing things. But somehow, Ginbe became silent on her side.

"What's wrong? Did I say something wrong?"

"..... Oh my. I knew it already..... but it feels really horrible to hear you saying it once more in such a direct manner."

Ginbe said that while mixing in her sighs.

"Really, how the heck did he reach that sort of conclusion? Actually, I do have an idea. Indeed, my way of speech and my rather poor figure - even if one is to be courteous about it, they can hardly call it as feminine. But even so, you can still....."

"Eh? What? I can't hear you properly."

"It's nothing. It's just that I had that small urge to rage at how dense you are."

"Oi oi what's with that, that's not nice. Also, I don't think I am a dense person, yeah? Or should I say - I am not tooting my own horn here - but I am a rather sharp person despite my looks."

"Ohhh? Then can I test you by asking you a question?"

"Of course. Whatever you like."

"Yesterday, your sister was ostracized by us - me, Kaichou and Fuku-kaichou. The reason was that lil sister is your blood-related younger sister. Do you know the reason why?"

"Eh? Do you even need to ask? Because it is fun to see how she reacts when she is being teased? Things like her being my blood-related sister is just an excuse, right?"

"..... Whatever. I knew that is what you are thinking."

Hmm?

Huh?

From the tone of her voice that came through the phone, it sounded like she was somehow very shocked - or rather, it was near the point of despising me.

"Eh, why? That's not it?"

"Don't be that flustered. I had no expectation of you getting it right."

"Oi oi what's with that. If there is another reason, then tell me about it."

"Touch your heart and ask yourself why, you blockhead."

After saying such a cold line,

"In any case, I have already decided. I am sorry, but from now on, I'll be proactive in bullying not just you, but also your sister as well."

She actually said that.

"Oi oi hold on a second. Why have you came up with that conclusion? What's the meaning behind that? I don't understand."

"You are worried about your lil sister's weird actions, and called up after you had left your house. This is irrefutable proof of how much you love your lil sister."

"Of course? She's my dear younger sister, you know?"

"So you have to treasure her that much just because she is your lil sister? Don't you think it is inevitable for me to be jealous of her due to that? Or else the balance will not be maintained."

"What's with maintaining balance and all that? I am even more confused now."

"Just to add on, it's not just me. The whole students council will put on the same stance as me - except you siblings, of course."

"Ehhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh?"

W-What did that person just say?

Which means to say, those sly students council members will be teaming up to pick on my sister.

If it becomes like that, my sister will think of all sorts of things to retaliate with all her

might. But no matter what she does, her opponents are just too powerful for her. The result will definitely be her surrendering miserably and running away with her tails between her legs while she cry her eyes out.

And then- And then-

Hmm wait. Perhaps things will actually develop in a surprisingly good way.

Or rather, it looks like it will be really fun.

Hmm, that's good. Hmm.

"..... What are you secretly laughing about?"

"Eh? How do you know that?"

"I had known you for so many years already. I'll know things like these even if I cannot see your expressions through the phone..... Well relax. I am prepared to tease her, but I know my limits. I do rather like your little sister if I ignore the fact that her brother-complex is way beyond the limits. I can't bear to see her crying her eyes out."

"What. So it's like that."

How disappointing.

That incompetent sister of mine - she will unleash her cuteness the more she is being teased at by others. If Ginbe was to help, it will much way more effective in seeing and appreciating the cute side of that girl.

"..... Akito. You are not thinking of something bad, right?"

"Eh? Absolutely not. I am just thinking - it will be great if Ginbe can tease Akiko more, so that I can see more of the cute side of that girl."

"..... Oh my."

Ginbe sighed.

I am not deliberately using her lines, but it is not like I had known her just for a few days either. It was just as if I could see her shaking her head in front of me while listening to the phone.

"You are not just an extreme sis-con, but you are a rather horrible sadist as well. So that's what it means to be so hopelessly incurable. Damn, that's slow of me..... I did not even know about your weird sexual preference until now. This is totally the symptoms of a late-stage cancer. There's no cure."

..... Hmm?

Huhhhhh?

Was I brutally scolded by her or something?

"No no. Hold on a second Gin. Firstly, I am not a sis-con. And the thing about me being a sadist - that's a huge misunderstanding."

"Really, there has to be a limit on how much obstacles there can be. So that's how it is to be pinned from the front and the back, huh..... If that's the case, we will not live to see the day no matter where we strike. Oh well, since I am attracted to such a guy, does that mean that my days are numbered....."

"Eh? Ha? What are you talking about? I can't hear you properly."

"Shut up, you are pissing me off. It's nothing. Akito, just get kicked by a horse and die flying to the moon. And don't you ever come back."

"Ehhhhh? W-Why are you that angry? I don't really understand, but did I spoil your mood? I am sorry, please forgive me."

"Hmmph. Spare me those half-hearted apologies. It's not like you are someone in debt to be smiling and begging for forgiveness. I am getting angrier and angrier while thinking about the treacherous plans of a man like you. That's enough. I am hanging up."

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duu-duu-duu-

"Ah- damn. She really hung up on me, that Gin."

I switched off my phone and swallowed hard.

That's really scary.

Have I made that person mad again?

The number one person whom I do not want to piss off. Not only have I received plenty of her care, she also knew many of my weaknesses.

Even though she is a rather rational person, who says things like "to be angry at you, and to forgive you - they are two separate matters". Somehow, when talking to me, she had occasionally flared up without rhyme or reason. If she had none of those problems, she will actually be the best friend one can have.

Well, forget it.

The original objective for the phone call is to inquire the weird actions of my sister - and that has been achieved already.

As for Ginbe's attitude, I'll just think of it optimistically as her way of expressing her friendship.

That must be it. I could not contact her regularly due to how busy I was from the house-moving. She still took that to heart even until now, so she is currently throwing her tantrum at me. That's right.

It won't do if I don't take some time off to placate her. I'll just bring along her favorite cake and visit her some time soon - that's how I reflected on myself.

Part 3: Same day, AM7:45

St. Ririana, the school which I am studying in, is one of the top few royalty schools in Kanto.

It's one of those type of schools. I guess all schools with a long history will retain many of their old traditions.

The members of the students council are to stand at the gate of the school everyday and greet the students who are coming to school - that's one of the traditions.

"Good day, Nasuhara. What a fine day it is today."

"..... Good day."

"Good day, Anastasia-sama. You are beautiful today, as always."

"..... Good day."

Today's her turn to do the job that every students council member has to take turns to do.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

With golden hair, sapphire eyes and a faultless figure. However, she is a beauty that one wouldn't dare get close to.

She has surprisingly became my colleague - or rather, my superior - as she is the vice president of the students council.

"Ara. Good day."

She did not really mean that, as per usual. Nasuhara was just saying it out of what was required of her (but even so, the students are still looking at her rather nicely). She spotted me and started a conversation with me.

"You are still putting on that depressed look. It shouldn't be something bad, but that expression of yours just looks surprisingly funny when it comes from your face. What is above your neck is like that of Takuya Kimura, but what is below your neck is like that of the idiotic Sakata - how's that analogy of mine? Is it easier for you to understand what I am trying to say?"

..... Sigh. How should I put it?

She was totally like her normal self.

I think that is probably the rule of the Nasuhara family to spew insults as a replacement for greetings.

"Morning, Nasuhara. You are in tip-top condition today as well."

"Just Anna will do."

It was like she was calling me out, who was giving a bitter smile and trying to sneak

past her,

"I should have said that before. Just call me by that."

"..... Oh-?"

"You dislike it? In another words, is that your way of saying that you want to maintain a certain distance from me?"

"No no no. How can that be?"

"Then please don't address me so distantly by using 'Nasuhara-san'. You should be calling me intimately by 'Anna'. That will make me much happier."^[1]

"Urm, is that so. I understand. Well then..... Morning, Anna. You are in peak condition today as well."

"Fu. You are a really impressive man to call a girl by the term 'hole'."

"..... Oh well, that's right. I knew you are going to say that. That is the reason why I don't want to call you by that, you know?"

I sighed.

Her hard-to-get-along personality is also as per normal. She was deliberately saying those things no matter how you look at it, and that made things even worse.

No, I can't quite say I hate it. It's more like I have no idea how to get along with her. It is hard for me to see what she is thinking about as well since she does not have much change in her expressions.

And so.

I had decided to retreat quickly, since that was the best course of action.

"Well then, see you later, Nasuhara."

"Hold on."

However.

That was her cold but clear voice which lacked any change of emotion. It pinned me onto the ground just when I was about to make a right turn and leave.

"Where are you going?"

"Where else but the students council room? There is a meeting today, right?"

"If that is the case, it will be fine we go there together, right?"

"But, you are currently working, aren't you?"

"That can be solved by having you to wait till my work is done before going there together."

"Ehhhh? In another words, you want me to work together with you?"

"It certainly looks like that."

"No, I am sorry. I wish to reach the students council room first, to brush up on my studies and stuff. My grades are not that good, so in order to catch up to the standards of this school-"

"It is really irritating to listen to you jabbering on and on. Be careful. I'll force you to guess the color of my lingerie if you do not act as I please"

Ah- Enough!

She is using that old gag again!

"Incidentally, today's colors are pure white."

"No no there is no need to tell me that..... Hey look, we had talked about it before already - it is better if you don't keep talking things like that, isn't it? No matter what, you are still the vice-president of the students council of this school."

"What you had said do make sense. However, I will have to apologize. That is my favorite gag. Once I like it, I'll use it till it rots. It is just like one continuously chewing on a well-chewed gum because he believes he has not extracted all the taste from it yet."

"So you like it that much....."

Well, that analogy was quite poor and tacky.

Could it be that this girl over here is not the daughter of a certain rich family?

"I like this gag a lot, and I shall not allow anyone to be mouthy about it. I will never forgive anyone who has complains about it, even if he is god."

"So you saying that you are not afraid of even god now."

If I remember correctly.

St. Ririana Academy should famous for being a rather devout Christian school.

"Even if that person is to get completely naked, has his back stuck with a piece of paper that says 'cry in your mother's arms', and is made to crawl about in public. Even if he cried and licked my shoes while declaring to everyone that 'I am the absolute in heaven and on earth', I will still refuse to forgive him."

"No look, it's better to forgive him if it is boiling down to that....."

"And thus from today onward, I'll be using this gag at any situation whenever there is a chance. I hope you will understand this."

"No well..... Since you love that gag that much, it's not good if I forced you to abandon it. I understand, so feel free to use it."

"Incidentally, the reason for me liking this gag so much is because your expressions will change to that of disgust whenever I am using it."

"Ah- Damn, I knew it is something like this! You had seized the opportunity to openly

declare me as an idiot!"

"It is really irritating to listen to you jabbering on and on. Be careful. If you do not act as I please, I'll change your lunch today to a lingerie feast."

"And you have immediately used your favorite gag! You are so easy to understand when it comes to this!"

Also, what was she saying? What's with the lingerie feast?

Has she really reached the point where nothing else matters as long as she can use the gag?

Though I am saying all these things, I am someone who is game enough to join others in the things they do. In actual fact, I am still at the school gates talking to Nasuhara.

The harder someone is to get along with, the more one wishes to get along with them..... This is an irony that will be faced by humankind forever.

Well, I will repeat what I had just said - I do not hate her. She is a little strange, but is also an interesting girl at the same time. As such, I won't deny her of my company, and will continue talking about silly things with her.

Even though I had said that, the current situation-

(Oh boy. It looks like things had gotten troublesome.)

I suddenly noticed something.

All the students who were entering the school were looking at this direction.

It looked like they were enjoying the show. At the same time, they were directing looks of curiosity, envy and jealousy.

Urm.

That was not a good sign.

I am someone who has just transferred to this school, which means I am an unknown person.

As someone who is new here, I fervently wish I will not do anything that is attention grabbing.

You see, there is a saying that goes: 'the gun will fire at the bird that shows its head'.

The students council consists of talented people - and for me who had somehow gotten into it by mistake, I am obviously the 'bird showing its head'.

Adding on to that, the whole school had already known the sensational speech made by this golden-hair beauty.

..... Oh well.

"Please allow me to be your girlfriend."

How did she say that sort of thing in front of everyone.

And even though Nasuhara had only said that to me yesterday, she is now talking to me with an expression as though she was just teasing me.

Whatever. She is someone who will say some rather shocking things all of the sudden. Perhaps it will be better if I do not take what she had said yesterday seriously.....

"Back on talking about you."

"Eh? What?"

"You are a member of the school's students council. So straighten your back."

"Huh? Ah, mmm."

"No matter how hard you try to hide it, you are still a 'bird showing its head'. It is something that can no longer be changed. Don't you think it is better to have some sort of self-awareness if you wish to continue on with your school-life at this academy?"

"Oh, yeah. Right."

Hmm.

That's troublesome.

It seems like Nasuhara had totally seen through me despite me being someone who will not wear his feelings and thoughts openly. Perhaps I should take note of that.

"Even though I am saying that, I do think it is slightly too demanding for you to be straightening your posture for now, considering that you had just transferred not too long ago. It is definitely true that St. Ririana Academy has a slightly different atmosphere as compared to the outside world."

"Yeah, that's it. It really is like this. This is an elite school that has a rather strong studying culture. As someone who has only average grades, is really rather difficult for me to get used to my transfer."

"I can understand that. I was troubled by the same thing a year ago when I first enrolled into this school."

"Oh-? Is that so?"

How surprising.

Nasuhara gives me the impression that she is someone who will not lose her blank expression even if the world is turned upside-down. So there was a period of time where she was not used to the school as well huh.

"If you had felt so as well, then how should I put it..... I feel slightly better now. It sort of feels like I will be forgiven slightly even if I do not get used to this place right away."

"That's right. But it is better if you get used to here as soon as possible."

"Mmm. Of course."

"The reason for you not being used to this place is due to the fact that you have not given others a good impression of yourself."

"Yeah. That's right."

"I had a good solution for that. A brilliant idea that will erase all the bad impressions that you had been suffering from."

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes, really."

"So what sort of idea is it? Please do tell me about it."

"Can I say it?"

"Mhmm. Go ahead and shoot."

"Is that so. Understood."

While saying that, Nasuhara nodded her head, and took a step towards me.

She gingerly picked up my hand.

Following that, she placed my hand onto her chest.



Eh? Huh?

I was temporarily stunned for a while as the sequence of events was executed way too smoothly. Howe,

"Whoa!?"

That was obviously a very bad situation.

I removed my hand in panic and jumped a step back,

"Oi, what are you doing!?"

"Just like what you had seen. You were touching my breasts."

"No hold on a second! Please don't make it sound as though I was the one who took initiative, alright!?"

"Rather than saying you had touched it, it is more like you were groping it. Does it sound more appropriate if I put it that way?"

"No I did not grope! I had just touched it! And that was something that could not be helped!"

"Is that so. Well then, what are your thoughts after touching it?"

"My thoughts..... well obviously....."

It was really soft, yet at the same time, springy. The size of her breasts are perfect as well- no wait, such things don't matter any more.

"Well then what the heck were you doing! What was the meaning of that!? Why did things turn out that way!?"

"What do you mean by things turning out this way and that? It's just a countermeasure for your poor image."

"How does that even work!?"

"Because that will give others a worse expression of you that is of a totally different level than before. They will forget cleanly those minor details they know about you earlier on."

"How the hell did you came up with that!?"

I hugged my head while staring into the sky. I am really an idiot to trust her. Rather than saying that her line of thoughts are too unpredictable, I should say that they are something that is out of the ordinary.

"This is what you call reverse psychology. Fighting poison with poison - that's how it is."

"No way, nothing was solved!"

"It's fine if you are to praise me more on my brilliance."

"And you are actually putting on a proud expression!"

"You are a guy who keeps jabbering and complaining too much. If you are to complain any further, I'll change your handkerchief into my panties and stuff it into the pocket of your uniform."

"Just that point about you grabbing onto the tiniest opportunity to use your favorite gag. Your alertness is indeed incomparable!"

Enough, you animal.

I never expect a trap like this will be waiting for me so early in the morning. What sort of looks will the onlookers give? Nasuhara can be considered as someone who is really famous in school. After touching her breasts like that, what will happen to my standing at school in the future-

"Everything is fine. Not to worry."

However, in contrast to me being at a loss of what to do, Nasuhara said this rather calmly,

"It is within my expectations for you to react like this. I made sure no one around us is looking."

"Eh? What do you mean?"

"Which means, there is no one who saw the scene of you violating my breasts. You do not have to worry."

"Ahh..... is that so. That means that I am safe. And also, what do you mean by me violating your breasts?"

"Therefore, what happened just now is just something like a demonstration. It is up to you whether you want to continue doing things like that."

"I am sorry, but I will have to decline."

"Things like that will not be effective if you do not continue doing it."

"I'll be caught by the police before any of its effects will ever take place."

"Is that so. How regretful."

Nasuhara said that without any sense of regret, while putting on an expression as if nothing had happened.

Really..... no one can predict the things that this girl will do. But even so, she is still the fuku-kaichou of a famous elite school, so she should possess a certain amount of capability and popularity.

"Anyway, I had not received your answer."

"Eh? On what?"

"Your thoughts after touching my breasts."

"..... No, I don't have any thoughts or whatever. All my attention was directed towards my shock, so I had noticed nothing else."

"Were you excited?"

"Nooooope."

Or I should say, I couldn't get excited.

I'll be envious of the person who can get excited under that sort of situation, since his tenacity must be something else altogether.

"Is that so. I see."

Nasuhara looked straight into me as she said that.

Upon taking a close look, she is a really beautiful girl.

Her eyes had a calmness similar to that of aquamarine, and it was giving off a light of clear brilliance.

Her snow white skin was like that of heathers that grew on the snowy mountains.

The precise arc of her cheeks emphasized her beautiful face.

Let's not talk about whether I was excited or not for now - she is an impeccable beauty that one would not get tired of looking at.

"Urm-..... W-What's wrong? If you are staring at me without blinking, I'll feel quite uncomfortable..... Or rather....."

"Was that not the best course of action?"

Nasuhara was muttering to herself. It seemed like she did not hear word that I had said.

"I thought he will become really flustered if I made him touch those breasts of mine, which can nearly be considered as a world heritage. It looks like I may have to tweak my strategies a little."

"Huh, what? What did you just say?"

"Nothing. I am just talking to a child."

"Eh? Isn't that a rather problematic line.....?"

"Look,"

Ignoring my question, Nasuhara looked towards my back,

"Did she not come here with you today?"

"Eh? Who's the girl you are referring to?"

"Arisugawa- no, she is Himenokouji now."

"Ah Akiko. She will be here slightly later as she still have some housework to do."

"Hmph, is that so. Looks like she escaped to live for another day."

"Eh? What do you mean by that?"

"That is because I am doing this students council work early in the morning. If you are to arrive at school in front of me while behaving intimately with your sister, I'll be so cruel with my words that she will probably feel like dying."

"Uwa."

That was really dangerous.

Nasuhsara is someone who is fluent with her speech, while at the same time, expressionless like that of an ice statue. If she is serious about picking on someone, that person will probably suffer a lot.

"..... You seem rather happy."

An illusion of hers, probably.

Nasuhsara, who rarely had any sort of change in her expression, looked at me with a rather dangerous stare,

"Your sister was actually on the verge of being treated cruelly, so why are you smiling like that?"

"Eh? No no no, I did not?"

"Even if you did not show it on your face, I will still know if the person is you."

"Is that so? Forget it. But you and Akiko are in that sort of relationship where the both of you will quarrel about the most mundane things, isn't that so? For me, I think it is alright as long as the quarrels do not get out of hand. There is a saying that the more you quarrel, the better the relationship becomes."

"But the person who has always been winning is me, you know?"

"Indeed, it feels like that. But whatever, that doesn't really matter. It is the responsibility of me, her elder brother, chase that person away and console her while she is crying. Plus, I think that sort of Akiko is rather cute as well."

"....."

After I had said that, Nasuhara closed her mouth tightly and stared at me for a while.

"Sigh," she heaved the rare sigh of hers as well.

"Even though I had noticed it already..... but you are really a sis-con. And one that exceeds my imagination."

"..... Eh? Why has it become like this? No no no, that is normal as her elder brother, right? To clean up the things that my sister has done, and to find my sister cute."

"Forget it. So that is what it means by something being much more worthy of my conquest if there are more obstacles on the path towards it."

It was as though she had accepted everything as she said that.

Not only that, she waved her hands as though she was trying to chase me away,

"I'll just let you go this time. Just hurry up and go. Be it self-studying or whatever, just do as you like."

"Ah. Urm..... can I?"

"However. Don't think that I'll just give up like this."

"Ah, umr. Right."

I did not really understand what was happening, but it looked like she was willing to let me go.

But somehow, it felt like I was being misunderstood. Whatever.

We will have to get along with each other for quite a while anyway. There will be plenty of opportunities for me to clear up the misunderstanding.

Part 4: Same day, AM8:00

At St. Ririana Academy, the students council are the school's enforcers that wield an enormous power.

Their strength in authority is often compared to the system of extraterritoriality.

For example, they can freely spend the huge amount of donations that the school had received.

Also, they have the power to change existing rules or create new rules for the school.

Depending on the conditions and situations, they can even miss their lessons and still receive the required academic credits.

There are other powers which they possess that makes people wonder: is it really alright to grant such huge authority to a group of young teenagers?

Because of all that, you can say that the students council enjoy special treatment in the school.

Therefore, the person who becomes the president of the students council is someone who is much more outstanding than the rest.

Even in a school that has gathered all descendants of powerful families - or rather, in a school filled with students of exceptional grades and talents, the president still stands out from everyone else.

Accepted by all the elite students to be at the top. The elite of all the elites.

The person must be popular among the students, and is required to have the abilities expected of him as well, or else he will not be up to task - at least that is how it should be.

"Yo. You are the earliest here huh?"

Upon entering the students council room, the girl rudely placed her legs on the redwood table and struck a conversation with me.

"Good morning, my dear lover number 4. In any case, take a seat first."

"Morning Seito-Kaichou. I am very troubled if you make such casual statements early in the morning."

I am neither your lover nor am I number 4.

"Ahaha. You are rather hard to handle."

"It's your jokes that are hard to handle."

"Oh well, that is what makes me fall in love with you, you know? I like that more compared to say, your techniques at night."

"When, where and how did I show you my techniques of the night?"

"Ototo. This person here is so hostile this early in the morning."

"I can't think of any single reason to be friendly to someone who calls me lover number 4."

"Alright, let's stop saying with this inconsiderate chatter."

That person laughed with a "kekeke" while putting on an expression where she ignored what I had said - she is the student with the highest power in St. Ririana Academy, and someone whom we should be proud of.

A red ponytail, an eye-patch over her right eye and a Japanese sword hung at her waist. Her casual attire is comparable to her attitude.

The president who was chosen out of all the talented people available - such is Nikaido Arashi..... Ah, how embarrassing.

"I say, Kaichou. A question....."

"Oh. Ask anything you like."

"Say, if I am number 4. That means there is 1, 2 and 3, right?"

"Of course. Number 1 is your younger sister. Number 2 is the emotionless golden-hair who confessed to you. Number 3 is that silver-haired friend of yours whom had chased you all the way to here."

"Well, none of them are your lovers, right?"

"That's nothing. They will all be after a while. My policy is to never lose sight of my prey, you know?"

What a disturbing policy.

And for some unknown reason, her ability in that is so powerful it's baffling. What's even scarier is the fact that if we are not careful, it will become as she says in a blink of an eye.

"Well, don't show such a depressed expression. I may not look like it, but I did reflect on it for a while."

"Reflect?"

Upon hearing a term which I did not expect to be hearing from Kaichou's mouth, I knitted my eyebrows slightly.

"Reflecting..... on what?"

"You see, I have so many lovers, don't I? But sadly, I have only one body. If that is the case, the time spent on each lover will become very little no matter what I do."

"Well of course."

"What a sad fact. Well of course, I am confident that I will lose to no one when it comes to my love for each individual lover..... but still, there has to be a limit. There will be areas where I cannot address adequately if I have as many as thirty odd

lovers."

"Thir-Thirty odd lovers?"

Though I had heard how, with the number of lovers she has, she cannot not hug them all with her two arms.

This person's sick in the mind or something.

Is she a seal that is in heat for the whole year? And not a male seal, but a female one.

"Thus, I had decided that it is about time for me to sort out my relationships."

"Hmm, a rather reasonable conclusion."

"And so, I had broken up with those thirty odd lovers."

"Eh? When?"

"Yesterday."

"Yesterday!?"

In just a single day?

And since the opening ceremony was held yesterday, that means she did it all within half a day?

"Of course, those are all amicable break-ups. Emotional break-ups are not suitable for me."

"Is that really true.....? With thirty odd people? And there was not a single trouble from all that?"

"Yeah. I am not tooting my trumpet, but I had never quarreled with my lovers before."

What?

It is shocking enough to go out with more than thirty lovers. Just how good is this person at interacting with people?

Nikaido-kaichou is indeed someone who is more than meets the eyes.

I was wrong to be saying things like 'how embarrassing'.

She is a perfect candidate to be commanding St. Ririana Academy. If she remains there at the top, there will be one day where she does something that shakes the world.

"As such, for my aspirations this year - I'll be executing my plans to change the students council into my harem. It's named <Doki☆ The students council where everybody is my lover! And there are touching scenes too?> How's that? It's a great idea yeah?"

"....."

Sigh, forget it.

To a certain extent, that is something rather shocking.

"Kaichou."

"Hmm? Will 'All scenes will makes you cry' be better?"

"I have never said or thought of anything along that line."

"Well then, are you touched by my huge ambitions?"

"That's not quite possible. Not only the idea itself is stupid, but your ambitions are also rather narrow as well. Since you said you had reflected, I thought that you have became slightly more decent..... Since you are doing some reflections, you might as well reflect on your rotten night-life."

"Ahaha. Impossible, impossible. That part of me is extraordinarily strong."

"Please do not be that honest at such things. Back on topic, why the sudden break-ups with your lovers?"

"I've just said it, right? I had reflected on it."

That smiling face of hers looked as though it was formed by the crystallization of her fearlessness and confidence. Kaichou said,

"There is a saying that goes, 'the person who goes after two rabbits will get none'. I am not boasting, but up till now, I have already gotten god knows how many rabbits."

"That's boasting. And a rather obvious one."

"Well, it looks like my godlike ability has became rather dull recently. People whom I cannot conquer with my charms and speech are beginning to appear one after another. And they looked really delicious, so much so that just for them, I'll do anything and everything to make them mine."

"Haa?"

"As such, I had a change of plans. I have given up on getting everybody. I've thus cut down my target down to only four rabbits."

I see.

So that was why she was saying things like students council harem.

Fuku-Kaichou Nasuhara.

My sister, who is the secretary.

Nikaido had prepared the seat of treasurer for Ginbe yesterday, and it looked like she had accepted the job.

And I was given the title of Deputy Assistant of Secretary, the errand-boy of the students council.

And thus her 'four rabbits' are gathered here.

"Oh- but this is rather troublesome. It will be really difficult for me to live through the night now that I had broken up with everyone at one go. It is extremely lonely to have no one by my side when I wake up. I had totally forgotten about that."

Well, she is the Kaichou who gouges herself when it comes to sex.

I feel like that makes a rather decent cure.

"However, I reaped my rewards from it immediately.

And then.

The Kaichou who had rudely placed her legs onto the table.

She did it very slowly, as though she was deliberately showing me her swapping the position of her two legs which was placed one on top of the other.

She then got down from the tall chair which was encased in real leather.

"If you want to know the reason why, it is because I was always in a state where I felt full, thus I have forgotten how it feels like to be hungry again. Ahh, how nostalgic that is. When my stomach is empty, I feel so hungry and thirsty. It's at the state where I am nearly going crazy."

She was advancing towards me really~ slowly.

..... Hmm?

Huh?

It feels like the atmosphere was changing.....?

"For me to actually reduce my number of targets - it can be considered to be my very first humiliation of my life."

Nikaido Arashi was already in front of me when I regained my senses.

I realized I was already swallowed by her imposing aura.

As Kaichou was of nearly the same height as well, it became crystal clear after she was of such a close distance to me.

It's scary how her face was so perfectly beautiful.

"As such - I absolutely cannot allow the remaining prey to escape."

Her eyes were glowing like ambers that had been roughly polished, but yet there was still a deep shine in her eyes.

Her perky nose.

Her luscious lips of hers looked like a sakura covered in morning dew.

And the perfectly balanced contour of her face which exquisitely holds on to all the above features.

Up till then, I had finally realized for the very first time.

Her weird looks and actions, are just a sheath to make the blade named Nikaido Arashi look seemingly harmless.

Those sort of blades that hung from her waist are nothing but blunt swords when compared to herself.

Nikaido Arashi should be the blade that everyone fears.

It will not be dangerous if she was encased by her sheath..... But once the blade is pulled out, it will definitely aim for the target and end the battle in an instant.

"Himenokouji Akito. Be my man."



It sounded like Kaichou's voice was coming from somewhere far away.

..... Things are not looking good.

Even though my brain knew this, my body could not response to its calls.

I could not shift my eyes away.

It was as though I am about to be swallowed or sucked into her. I was enchanted by Nikaido Arashi.

Kaichou is someone who can really control the 'grounds' to her favor.

Of course, the students council room is her home-ground, and as someone who is here for the first time, there was the factor of it me being on away-grounds as well. It was a place where it will be easier for Kaichou to eat me; and for me, a place where I would be eaten more easily.

But that could not explain everything.

Such binding and coercive powers - it has already reached the stage of hypnosis, you know?

It had probably started the moment this place had only both of us. Nikaido had seen me as a prey, and was planning to hunt me.

And then, she tricked me into the spider's lair which she had painstakingly woven.

Each and every words and action of hers had venom hidden in them, and they bound me in place.

Damn.

I had planned to stay away from her, but it looked like that was all just a 'plan'.

Nikaido Arashi. This person here is really dangerous.

"Ku ku. What an obedient child."

It's settled - she must have believed in that.

Kaichou narrowed her eyes bewitchingly. She was giving off a rather sweet scent.

Slowly - and very slowly - her lips approaches mine—

"Hold on a second—!"

Just then.

What came together with the loud opening of door was.....

"It shall end right here, Kaichou! Please get away from Onii-chan!"

My sister's hair was in a mess. She was panting furiously.

"Come, Onii-chan. Come to me!"

After pulling me to her back, she stiffened her shoulders furiously and snarled at Kaichou with a "Fu!"

Oh.....

Had I ever found my sister's back to be that dependable in the past?

"Thank you Akiko, I was saved. You had arrived just at the right moment. Ah, that was

close. I was thinking what would have happened if things were to carry on."

"Onii-chan you idiot————!"

I was scolded.

Her eyebrows arched up way more than when she was intimidating Kaichou.

"That is why I said those things to Onii-chan, right!? You cannot get close to this person! Not to mention, you were alone with Kaichou in such an enclosed place. It was as stupid as someone who was trying to grow flowers on a mine-field! Onii-chan, do you not treasure your own chastity!?"

"Ah. Urm. Sorry."

"If you are really sorry, then please hug me!"^[2]

"Why."

"Or you can continue with what you were doing back then, but with me!"

"So I say, why are things going that way?"

"Enough! By saying such things, it means to say that Onii-chan is not repenting! At such a bad child, I have to punish you with a *kiss*, alright!?"

"No that's enough. In any case, calm down."

Forget it.

My sister typically acts like this regardless of whether she is calm or not.

In any case, such a thing had happened precisely because I was careless. That was the truth as well.

I had to repent deeply for forgetting my sister's advise.

"Arara. My plan was spoiled by a gooseberry."

The hunter shrugged her shoulders and laughed loudly despite the fact that her prey had escaped when she was that close to catching it.

"The feeling is gone now, so I'll try again next time."

I could no longer see any trace of seductiveness from her body.

She looked just like a vagabond of the Bakumatsu era who was exposing herself for everyone to see. It was as though she was declaring, "I am harmless!"

Ahhh, those quick changes are comparable to that of a chameleon.

A capable eagle always hides its claws.

I could think of no one else but her when I recalled this old saying..

"As long as I am not blind, I'll not allow you to lay a finger on Onii-chan. I'll definitely protect Onii-chan from your venomous fangs."

"Ha ha ha. That's a pretty good aura from you. I like this part about you a lot as well. If only you are to become my lover, then everything will be perfect."

"I humbly decline. I am dedicated to only my Onii-chan."

"Great, great. I like your dedication as well. That gives me more incentive to conquer you..... But even though I've said that."

She took a deep breath.

Nikaido-kaichou narrowed her eyes rather menacingly.

The Kaichou who is like a chameleon, changed her stance in an instant.

"Himenokouji. You are indeed my precious backup to my lover, and I do indeed love you a lot as well."

She turned from a sunny vagabond into a cold executioner.

All just in the blink of an eye.

"However. You'll have to repay your debt for interrupting my hunt and my meal, since they are two different altogether. As my subordinate and the secretary, you do know that, do you not?"

"I-I will not be intimidated by threats of that sort."

"You know, this is not a threat.. This is simply the death penalty."

Kaichou took a step forward.

Similarly, my sister took a step back.

"It is the job of the king to mete out rewards and punishments. It will not do if the superior does not carry out her responsibilities - things like disciplining my subordinates, you know?"

"I-I am just stopping Kaichou's indecent acts! I had done nothing bad!"

"My words are the law here."

"That's way too unreasonable! I oppose!"

"Stop irritating me. Strip right now."

"Strip!? Why!?"

"Ahhhh stop talking- stop saying all those unnecessary stuff and let me eat you. I had not eaten since yesterday, and that resulted in all these pent up stress. You are to take responsibility for that."

Kaihcou closed in on my sister with the looks of a predator - or more accurately, the looks of a hungry beast.

In response, my sister had grabbed onto a broom next to her and took on a stance.

As for me, there was no reason for me to remain as a spectator. I should stop them

when the time is right. Or at least that was how things should be.

"What are you guys doing?"

"The two of you are pretty energetic in the morning."

Just the perfect timing.

Nasuhsara Anastasia.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

I did feel like it was about time, but it was really lucky for them to appear together.

"..... Che. Luck is not on my side today."

Due to the appearance of another two subordinates, Kaichou had decided that it was time for her to stop.

"I'll just give up for today. Himenokouji, you owe me one."

"I owe you!? Why!?"

"Hey, do you think you can just interrupt my meal as you please?"

"That is because Kaichou was about to do that to Onii-chan-"

"What exactly had happened?"

Nasuhsara interrupted.

"Please explained what had happened, so that Ginbe and I can understand everything."

"Oh, that is-. Listen to me, you two."

"I see, so that's how it is. Well, from what I heard, it is obvious that Himenokouji is at fault."

"Oi, Nasuhara!? Please do not say such things when you had not even listened to Kaichou's explanations! And please do not decide by yourself that the one who is wrong is me, alright!"

"No no no lil' sister. She is not wrong."

Ginbe interrupted as well.

"Honestly, one can easily guess what had happened here. It is probably just Kaichou being too sexually deprived, so she requested you to relieve it, right?"

"Well- that is roughly correct, but! There are many things that had happened before that!"

"No, that is not a good, you know? You are the secretary of the students council, meaning to say it is your job to assist the president in all sorts of things. Not to mention, that *thing* of Kaichou is much higher than that of normal person that even I, as someone who has just knew her not too long ago, know that. To be that uncaring

towards Nikaido-kaichou to the point where she lost control - that was obviously you failing to do your job. I can think of nothing else aside of that."

"W-What did you expect me to do about that!?"

"That's easy. You just be Kaichou's lover."

"Definitely no!"

"Or you can be Kaichou's sex toy or something."

"That is even worse, alright!?"

"Why can't you just listen..... just what exactly do you want? If you do not be more obedient, I'll lock you and Kaichou up in an enclosed room that is soundproof and force you to spend the night with her."

"That~ is~ why! Why does everything have lead to that!"

..... Well, that's how it is.

The incident was somehow set aside just like that. How gratifying (?)

As for my sister, I was really grateful to her for becoming a scapegoat due to her standing up against Kaichou - or should I say, I would very much love to help her if possible.

Just as they had said earlier, Nasuhara and Ginbe were both taking turns to bully Akiko. It looked like Kaichou had her own thoughts regarding Akiko as well.

Whatever. I shall not disturb them for now. I will be bringing myself trouble if I interrupt them when I am wrongly labeled by them as a sis-con,

And also, how should I put it.

To see my sister being ruthlessly bullied by the three of them - that was really cute as well. If so, I should just enjoy such service. I guess this is human nature as well-

Even though that was what I thought.

"Alright. It's about time we stop all these fun."

pa, pa

It looked like Nikaido-senpai was in a really good mood. She attracted all our attention.

"The meeting is about to start. Everyone, get to your seats."

She ended things just like that. To me, that was just as expected from the *boss* of the school.

Well well.

Come to think of it, that was really scary.

If I were to say why, it was because all sorts of things had happened from morning up

until now.

Only an hour had past by since the start of the story.

How will things develop in the future..... I gave a soft sigh as I looked at the four beauties taking their seats from the corner of my eyes.

Part 5: Same day, AM8:15 (St. Ririana Academy's students council room)

And so.

The students council meeting had finally started after much difficulties.

I am slightly nervous, to be honest.

After all, St. Ririana Academy is one of the few top royalty schools in Japan. They are well known even at Kyoto as well.

Not only it is a place for the elite of the elites to gather, it also practices extraterritoriality as well. And the group that holds on to these powers is the students council.

As the first meeting of the semester and chaired by Nikaido Arashi, I wonder what will the topics be like - as someone who had just transferred into the school, and as the holder of the lowest position in the students council, it is something really interesting.

In any case, do allow me to observe the meeting.

It was obvious for Kaichou and Nasuhara, but even that incompetent sister of mine - all of them should be the top students of this school. While Ginbe is new here just like me, I long knew about her fantastic performance a long time back.

Ahh, what sort of conversation will these people have?

.....

.....

Then again.

Where should I sit?

Kaichou, fuku-kaichou, secretary and treasurer.

Those were the name-plates found on the respective tables. I didn't have it say it for the three original members, but even Ginbe had managed to find her seat without trouble.

I don't know if it was to be expected, but I could not find the seat for the awkward position that is named as 'Deputy Assistant of Secretary'. As such,

"Oi-. You are to sit here."

There.

Nikaido-kaichou made a signal to the lost me,

"Sorry, sorry. I did not prepare your seat, since your position was something I fabricated on the spot. I had forgotten it due to my carelessness."

"You know, you are the president, so please do not use terms like 'fabricated'."

Should she say that in normal circumstances, those who had voted for her will surely question the trust they had placed in her.

"Forget it, lets not care about that for the moment..... Well, where should I sit?"

"Well, just sit by my side for now. Since you will not be doing anything important for today, you can experience for yourself the atmosphere here."

..... Whatever. I guess that was a rather appropriate arrangement.

Come to think of it, this rather lengthily named position of mine was something that Kaichou had decided on her own. I am probably Kaichou's private secretary or something.

And since it has already come down to this, I do want to see the unfathomable abilities of Kaichou.

"Understood. Then I sit myself at Kaichou's back-"

"Please hold on for a moment."

Nasuhara interrupted all of the sudden.

"For the students council of this school, the role of the secretary should be under the jurisdiction of the vice-president, right? His role is the Deputy Assistant of Secretary. Since I am the vice-president, I should naturally be the responsible of the management of him. Should that not be it?"

Huh?

I was not aware of this rule since I am extremely new here. If that is what Nasuhara says, then it should not be wrong. Yup.

"And so, the most suitable position of his seat is right next to mine. Any objections?"

"Oh. If we are to put it that way, then can I say something as well?"

Just when I was thinking that, Ginbe had spoken up about her own opinion as well.

"I am not too sure about the rules of this students council, but just like Akito, I have just transferred to this school. As fellow newcomers of the students council, we should pick up the jobs from our senpai together, right?"

Urm.

Her words do make sense.

It's obviously so me, but Ginbe has just joined the students council two days ago as well. I didn't really think there is much of a chance for her to be involved in things.

Or rather, we will be hindering the meeting if we were to randomly interrupt them without knowing anything. In such a situation, it will be better for Ginbe and me to sit together at the sides and observe the meeting.

"Everyone, wait a second."

Even my sister was raising her hand this time.

"If that is the case, then I have something to say as well. If we are talking about the position of Onii-chan, then just as its name suggest, he should be there to assist me, the secretary-"

"Rejected."

"Oi Kaichou?!"

My sisters opened her eyes wide when her speech was interrupted with a rather straightforward answer.

"But I am not done yet?"

"Mmm. Well, yeah. I thought it will be better if I do something like this for the final gimmick."

"Those feelings akin to that of a comedic alien are unnecessary!"

"Well, I guess it will be fine for you to continue if you are to bathe with me everyday."

"Why do I have to agree to that sort of request!? Isn't my position here a little too weak!? Please listen to me like you'll do with others!"

"Slightly off topic, but speaking about bathrooms, some public baths have recently turned into a place for prostitution as well."

"I don't think it is appropriate for you to be saying these 'fun-facts' at a time like this!"

"Well, that's how it is."

Nikaido-kaichou ended the subject just like that.

My poor sister could not keep up with the pace at which Nikaido-kaichou had changed the topics, which resulted with her losing the chance of expressing her own views.

Mmm. Such was the difference in capabilities.

"I understand everyone's stands now."

Kaichou stood up from her seat,

"It has been decided. The discussion topic for the very first meeting of the new semester shall be this."

She wrote on the whiteboard with a set of beautiful handwriting.

"Round one, tada! Who shall sit beside Himenokouji Akito?"

..... Urm, well, what can I say?

Am I holding some overly weird fantasies for the students council of this school?

It looks like that is totally the case here.

"Urm- pardon me, Kaichou."

"Yes?"

"Despite being the main subject of the matter, my opinion has not been sought."Can I say something?"

"..... Alright. Shoot."

"I wish to sit next to Akiko."

Just as I said that, the whole atmosphere of the room changed.

Nikaido-kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe changed into a rather dark expression, and it looked like they were about to sigh.

Only Akiko showed a beaming look as though she was welcoming the gardens of summer.



"Onii-chan..... Akiko has always believed firmly that Onii-chan and me are always in love since the beginning of time."

"No, no, it's not like that. Look, isn't this rather natural? You are my younger sister and my superior as well. The things Nikaido-kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe had said in regards to the position of my seat do make sense as well, but will ultimately go down

this path if I am forced to choose , isn't it?"

"Fufu, you don't have to be shy about it, Onii-chan. I am very~ clear about it - about Onii-chan's true feelings."

"No. That expression of yours shows very clearly that you did not understand."

"We might as well announce our engagement and stuff right here, okay?"

"Indeed, you do not understand."

I sighed.

Oh well, I knew things would turn out like this.

Even so, I have decided that it would be better if I state my stand clearly instead of wasting time on such mundane things. The result was exactly what I had expected, right down to how I had increased my sister's delusions.....

"Kukuku. Since it has been decided, then let us not waste our time. Here, Onii-chan, take a seat here. Let us both stick together closely and attend the meeting-"

"Himenokouji."

While my elated sister was waving her hands at me, Kaichou interrupted.

"I am sorry, but can I ask you to do something urgent?"

"Something urgent? Right now?"

"Mmm. Sorry- please help me to buy a red bean bun."

"R-Red bean bun?"

"Yeah. I have no idea why I have a sudden craving for it. Ah, don't forget about the milk as well."

"..... I apologize, but I will not do it even if this is an order from Kaichou. To think you are ordering your subordinate to attend to your private matters while at an important meeting. Please conduct yourself in a more respectful manner."

"If you are to get them within five minutes, I'll bestow you the right to get your brother to say to you, 'Akiko today is cute to the max'."

"Within five minutes!? Understood!"

With that said, Akiko immediately flew out of the students council room like a dog.

Is that really okay, my younger sister..... Honestly speaking, your brother is rather worried about your future.....

It will not do. I will have to lecture my sister when she returns.

"Right. With that, the thing in the way is gone, but....."

Kaichou slowly placed her legs on the table and shot a glance at me.

"Himenokouji Akito. What are your thoughts after seeing your sister acting that way?"

"How else can I feel other than to be really worried."

It will be really tough for her in the future if she is controlled by others that easily.

Well, I can prevent things from becoming overly troublesome if I am by her side, but..... I can't be with her all the time.

"That's right. I am worried about it as well. Not just me, but the duku-kaichou and treasurer there are both putting on a rather pissed-off expression - they share the same thoughts as me as well."

With that said, she took a glance at the silent Nasuhara and Ginbe. Next,

"But. What we are worried about is not quite the same as what you are worrying about."

"Haa?"

"You are a huge sis-con, right?"

"Eh?"

Wait what.

Nasuhara and Ginbe do think like that, but why does Kaichou have that sort of misunderstanding as well.

"No, it's not like I have a sister-complex, you know? Well of course, I do treasure my younger sister and love her very much. But, isn't that something rather natural as her elder brother? I don't think there is anything inconceivable about it."

"Urm, yeah. You are right. Ahh, this is a total mess. You are not wrong..... but."

Even though she had said that, it looked like Kaichou was implying something else.

"Nasuhara, Ginbe, come over here for a second."

She got her two subordinates to her side, and began to whisper among each other.

"Well..... I guess you both have had a rough idea on what I am about to say?"

"Mmm, yes. Things are in a really terrible state."

"The problem of the Himenokouji siblings is slightly out of my expectations. Though it's not like we had underestimated them....."

For some unknown reason, I was the only one who was excluded from them.

Even though I am saying that, it's not like I'll do things like interrupting the girls in order to know what they were whispering about..... I'll just wait for them to be done with their discussion.

"In any case, there's nothing much we can do if both siblings are like that. Should this continue on, even I will have no choice but to surrender."

"Those two will live in a world of themselves without them realizing it if we are to leave them alone. Really, please spare me from that."

"Well, luckily for us, they are blood-related siblings. For the competition to end on a note where the siblings ends up together..... such an ending is impossible - well, that is the case typically."

"But after looking at them, I have no idea when, where and how that sort of thing will happen."

"We will become a huge joke if things do turn out that way. To prevent the worst case scenario from happening, we will have to take countermeasures."

"For now, let us call it a truce and form a temporary alliance. But the question is, what should we do next?"

"I have a plan in regards to that. Care to listen?"

..... Oh.

It looks like they are done with their discussion.

"We have made you wait for quite a while, Himenokouji Akito."

Kaichou said when< the members of the secret chat have all returned back to their seats.

"There is something that I wish to discuss with you. Can you spare me your attention?"

"Yeah. About what?"

"How do you view your sister's brother-complex?"

"Well..... I am happy that she admires me that much. That is even more so considering the fact that we have not seen each other for six years. However, even without the need of me saying it, my sister is just a sister to me. There's nothing else other than that."

"Well, how about the fact that your sister wears her brother complex openly, or the fact that she does care about what the people around her think?"

"Ah- that."

That is my pain.

For six years she was separated from me, Akiko was adopted as a daughter by a famous family, the Arisugawa. In order not to embarrass herself wherever she goes, she had undergone the respective trainings.

And thanks to that, her grades at St. Ririana Academy are excellent. She is popular, and it looks like she is one of the few top students as well. In actual fact, she is also the secretary of the powerful students council.

Though she has forgotten it cleanly due to those..... actions of hers in our daily lives,

but Akiko has already obtained plenty of reputation at the age of just sixteen.

But if her reputation is tarnished because of me living together with once more, or due to me transferring to this school - it will be really terrible even if her reputation suffers from the slightest scratches.

Not to mention, we have just forcefully moved out of the Arisugawa and Takanomiya households in order to live by ourselves. It's the period of time where we will want to avoid any bad impressions or incidents.

"Well, I can roughly understand your feelings from those expressions of yours."

Kaichou nodded her head slowly,

"You too think that your sister's brother-complex is not something that's good, am I right?"

"Mmm, I guess."

"Actually, that is not just you. The rest of the students council feel the same way as well."

"What do you mean?"

"Do I even have to say it? The blunder of a students council member will equate to the blunder of all of us. Your sister's brother-complex is something quite troublesome. Even if I am to be polite about it, I can't say that it is something that will bring a positive influence to us. You understand?"

That's precisely how it is.

Actually, I had noticed it a little ever since the beginning.

Back then, no one really cared that my sister was saying things like "I love Onii-chan the most" for the whole day. That is because that no one understood how bad her brother-complex was.

But ever since I transferred to this school, things had turned for the worse. It seemed like the news of how my sister acts around me have already made its way throughout the whole school. Frankly, I do not know if it is possible to maintain my sister's current reputation.

"We are all affected by it together, regardless of whether the situation is beneficial or harmful. Things will become troublesome if we were to ignore it. As such, we have no choice but to take some measures."

"Well..... you are right. And so? Does Kaichou have something in mind?"

"Well, I do have something. But in order to execute that plan - Himenokouji Akito, your cooperation is a must. You will help out, right?"

Notes

1. Akito always address Nasuhara with the -san suffix, but I had removed it normally as they are not necessary
2. As said before, hug can means having sex in Japanese

Chapter 2

Part 1: 9th April, AM7:00

The second day after the opening of school.

In the typical caretaker's room of the students hostel, a typical breakfast scene...

"Onii-chan, don't you think that it was way overboard!?"

My sister set her breakfast aside and ignored it. She was fuming in anger.

"I had timed myself! There should be 5 seconds left, and that's plenty of time!"

"Stop waving your fist and bowl about. That's rude."

"That was what happened, but Kaichou actually said: 'Ah what a pity, you had just exceeded by three seconds'! She had robbed me of my rights with that unfair judgment! Can you allow such a barbaric act to happen!?"

"Even if you say that to me....."

To me, that was a great help from her, since I didn't have to say things like 'Today, Akiko is really cute to the max' in front of everybody.

After listening to the nonsensical talk by Nikaido-kaichou yesterday, my sister rushed out of the room and really did bring back the anpan and milk as instructed.

Of course, as St. Ririana Academy does not have places that sell those things. It seemed like my sister sprinted all the way to a nearby convenience store to buy them. That convenience store is not that far away, but it is not of a distance where my sister can get to and fro within five minutes.

Ahhhhh really. My sister is wastefully and overly capable at things that are not really important.

"Up until today, I had always endured the tyranny of Kaichou. But this time round, I am really at my limit. I fervently object. No matter what, I will have to overturn the injustice of the century regardless of any means."

"Just forget about it. You don't really have to be that persistent about it, right?"

"Please do not worry. I have already employed a lawyer."

"Cancel the services of that lawyer. Right now."

"Onii-chan!? Whose side is Onii-chan on!? So you are not on my side but Nikaido-kaichou's!?"

"Why has things turned into this? Also, since you dashed out of the room without clarifying anything, you are at fault as well, you know? Kaichou had actually timed you carefully. You said that 'five minutes is way enough time', but ultimately that is just by your own gut feelings. You did not actually check with a watch or something, right?"

"Forget it, we shall leave that aside."

Upon seeing that things were not going well, my sister changed the subject immediately.

"Ultimately, it is Onii-chan's fault, you know?"

"Why?"

"Isn't that so? If Onii-chan says to me things like 'Today, Akiko is really cute to the max' every single day, then I would not have fallen for that despicable trick of Kaichou, which resulted in me doing all that for nothing. Right?"

"You know what? Whatever you've just said is what everyone calls as a 'shifting of responsibilities'."

"No matter what, that's how it is. From today onward, please say to me 'Today, Akiko is really cute to the max' seriously and frequently, alright? Once every five minutes."

"That's way too frequent. Oi."

Whatever.

Things would get to nowhere if I am to follow the pace of my sister, so things shall end there.

It was about time for me to talk about that.

Obviously, it is about the thing that was proposed yesterday in the students council room.

"Hey, Akiko."

"Ah, you want more? Please eat more. I am rather pleased with how the carrots had turned out."

"No, no. Not that. Today, after school....."

"Ah, there are things that needs to be bought? If so, then a trip down to the convenience store will be necessary. The body wash that I am currently using is slightly unsuitable for my skin."

"No. It's not about buying things as well."

Facing my sister's interruptions, I couldn't help but gave a bitter smile,

"Today, I'll be going somewhere after school. I am sorry, but can Akiko go back home by yourself?"

"....."

"Akiko?"

"....."

"Oi? Akiko~? Are you listening?"

"..... Eh? Ah, yes. Of course, I am listening?"

"Anything wrong? Your smile is slightly stiff."

"Urm nothing. Please eat more. I am rather pleased with how the carrots had turned out."

"Mmm. Looks like you are fine."

Seems like the impact was so huge she had traveled back in time.

"Today, I'll be going somewhere after school. I am sorry, but can Akiko go back home by yourself - that's what I had said."

"Alright..... Eh? Eh?"

Finally, my sister had comprehended what I had just said. Thanks to that, she had temporarily went into a state of panic. But then, she immediately gave an expression that says 'ahh, so that's how it is',

"You are joking right? Onii-chan is surprisingly mischievous."

"Nope. That's not a joke."

"Eh? But if that is the case, then it will become like that right? Wouldn't it become the state where I cannot go home with Onii-chan?"

"Mhmm. Indeed, it will become like that."

"Ahaha. That sort of thing-. How can it be-"

"Ahaha, that's how it will be."

"Ahaha."

"Ahaha."

"Aha..... Ahaha....."

"Well, that's how it is. Don't go anywhere else, just return home directly after....."

"I Ob————ject!"

My sister raised her voice and stood up, as though she wanted to interrupt my words.

"I request for an emergency family meeting!"

"Rejected."

"You say you have somewhere to go, but where exactly is that place!?"

"Secret."

"Please bring me along!"

"No way, no way."

"Onii-chan....."

The corners of my sister's eyes began to gather tears,

"Onii-chan..... Onii-chan had turned into a delinquent! Uwaaaa~!"

"Who's the delinquent? It will be bad if someone hears that."

"To actually leave your cute younger sister alone, what else can you be other than a delinquent!"

"Leaving you alone and whatever..... It's just me wanting you to go home by yourself, you know?"

"In any case! I will never agree to that!"

Well, I had expected that.

Or I should say, my sister will need a trip to the psychiatrist if I heard her saying things like 'I understand, please be careful' and such.

"I want to be together with Onii-chan at all times! It is much better to go home together with Onii-chan after school! If Onii-chan wishes to do as he pleases by hook or by crook, then I have my own plans as well!"

"Wait, hold on. Calm down for a moment."

"Everything will be fine! The lawyer that I am hiring is extremely good!"

"You will have to cancel your appointment with that lawyer properly, alright?"

Well well, I gave a sigh.

"In any case, listen to me first."

"I will never listen to anything that the bad Onii-chan is about to say!"

"Akiko. This is my trial for you"

"Huh.....? A trial?"

"During these six years where you are separated from me, you had indeed followed my instructions of 'being a good girl'."

"Of course. I had worked very hard in order to prepare myself for my reunion with Onii-chan at any moment."

"Mmm, that's right. I liked that most about you."

"R-Really!?"

"Yes. Really."

"P-Please say it again!"

"You had listened to me and grown up to be an outstanding child. I really like that the most."

"Ehehe..... I-It's not really that great."

My sister twisted her body about in embarrassment.

"B-But Onii-chan. If you love me that much, then we should be going home together-"

"But Akiko."

I interrupted Akiko's request,

"Being good at your studies, being adept at housework, and being a students council member..... I really think that the current you is a good girl. The most important though is the requirement of you listening to me obediently - that is the requirement of being a 'good girl', don't you think so?"

"Uhhh. T-That....."

"You are an obedient girl who will not cause me to worry. Ever."

Closing my eyes, I reminisced the days when we were still young. I said emotionally,

"Our parents were seldom at home ever since we were sensible enough. Generally, I took care of just about everything in the house. Cleaning and washing, and etc..... Although I do not know why, I was trusted by our parents deeply."

"Mmm. That is really true."

My sister spoke with a tone as though she was looking through an old photo album,

"Even though we are twins, Onii-chan has been much more capable in everything as compared to me. I had always been depending on Onii-chan."

"Well, we had our shortcomings as well. But Akiko, the reason we had held on and lived through it was in no small part due to you. Because you were really obedient towards me. I do think we would not have survived that should you chose not to listen to me. We were just two elementary school kids back then, and we were practically living by ourselves."

"But that was because..... That was because there was nothing I could do other than to listen to you. Just for Onii-chan only, I did not wish to add on to your worries. And so....."

"Akiko. You are a dependable child. I believed that even if I am separated from you temporarily, Akiko will manage just fine. That's what how much I believe in you. Your brother now wishes to see the proof of it."

"Ughhhhhhhh~~~"

My sister stared at me in resentment, with the expression that says 'Onii-chan you are mean'.

Not long after, she gave what seemed to be a sigh of resignation,

"..... . Since Onii-chan had already put it like that, I'll not be me if I were to reject it. I'll just endure it for today. I'll do my best to let Onii-chan know that I will be alright even if I am alone."

"Mhmm. That is my younger sister."

..... That's how it was. I had finally managed to placate Akiko.

Once again, I was thankful for not telling her where I was about to go.

"In the next three days, you are to visit the house of each of the members." I do not have any confidence of restraining her if my sister comes to know about this.

Part 2: 9th April, PM4:00

"Parents must allow their children to walk on their own, while children must learn to be separated from their parents. In the same vein, a younger sister must learn to live without her elder brother."

That's Nikaido-kaichou's plan put in simple terms.

"To conclude, the root of the problem is the fact that you are together with your sister for the full twenty-four hours a day. That can't be helped if both of you are at home, but you guys are together in school as well, right? Not only at the students council, but even during lesson breaks and lunch. Needless to say, you siblings are together when you are going back home as well. It's kind of lucky that both of you are not in the same class, but that doesn't really change things."

Kaichou's analysis had no room for disagreement.

She was totally spot on. I am together with my sister for the whole day, from morning till night.

After we were reunited, we siblings have been living together as though we were of one body and soul. The only times when we weren't together are during things like going to the bathroom or showering.

"I can understand your feelings, seeing that you two have reunited only after six years. However, don't you want to try a little harder on this?"

As such.

The conversation had changed to whether I can try to reduce the amount of time that I spend with my sister.

After some discussions, the suggestion "after school, Akito shall visit the homes of the student council members" had been approved.

As compared to just simply reducing the time spent with my sister, this suggestion doubles as the chance for me to be closer with the students council members, which is great for me - though that is what it seems. It somehow feels like Kaichou's was hatching up some sort of plans - or rather, the fact that she had some other motives were a little too obvious.

Then again, instead of questioning the effectiveness of the plan, this should be considered an emergency measure - that was what I had thought.

Though I had said that, I don't really have a reason to object it strongly. Moreover, Kaichou had said things like "it's better than doing nothing" and "I'll come up with a more solid plan during this period of time". Not to mention, it was originally my intention to pay an official visit to Ginbe's house as well.

If so, I should use this chance to visit the houses of the other students council members as well - as such, the plan had been approved.

Then.

Due to these reasons, I am standing outside my friend's house right now. However.

"..... What a wreck."

I had accidentally let out my overly honest thought.

The hostel which I am living at with my sister is not much better. But the place in which my friend from Kyoto is living at had easily surpassed that of ours.

How long has this thing been existing for?

A shabby two-story wooden apartment, with its roof slanted the walls filled with holes. It will take a lot of effort to find a place that has no insect cavities. Forget about the winds, this place will probably collapse with a mere puff of air.

Ginbe..... I know you are tight on cash, but don't you think this is just pushing it?

"Hi. You are here, Akito."

I turned my head upon hearing that voice. My friend was already standing at the entrance waiting for me without me knowing. All my attention had been focused onto this apartment, resulting in me not noticing that.

"..... Gin. Yet again, you have gotten for yourself quite an impressive place."

"No no no Akito, it may not look like it, but this is actually a bargain. The exterior is just as it looks, but the frame of the house is surprisingly sturdy. It is slightly old, but the inside is not as bad as how the exterior looks. The most important thing is, the rent suits me just fine. You can't find another place that comes with a toilet/bathroom at such a price."

"No, even so..... Well, it must have been a real bargain if you say so."

"Well, it's no good for us to be talking outside, so come on in."

- ♡ -

I see, it was indeed as my friend had said.

Upon stepping past the entrance, it feels more like an old temple instead of a shabby old apartment.

The black floor that had been polished till it's bright.

Even though the sunlight was not that great, there was not much dampness either. The air felt slightly cooling.

It is similar to our apartment in that aspect. I should put it this way - it is shabby, but it is not dirty. I see, she must have been lucky to get this apartment. It must have been constructed by a really skillful artisan; lots of high quality wood was used for its construction.

"We are here. It's this room."

We walked up the creaking stairs and opened the first door we saw. It's a simple room that is roughly four tatami-size big.

A slightly old and round short-table.

A similarly old Japanese-styled wardrobe.

Those are the only furniture in the room. Just like before, the room of my friend was extremely bare and empty.

"Your house is still the same as before, huh?"

"Well, simplicity is best. Take a seat. I had bought some tea in preparation for your visit."

As I accepted her offer and sat down on the cushion, Ginbe began to brew the tea rather skillfully.

Her sole interest is reading, but she is somehow really skilled at brewing tea.

"Here. Please drink it while it is hot."

"Oh, thanks. Here I go."

I took a sipped of the thick tea. Despite not using high-quality tea leaves, the tea which Ginbe brews are always delicious.

"How's it?"

"Mmmmm. It's really good."

"Is that so? That's great."

A huge smile.

A huge smile.

Ginbe was smiling rather contently as she watched me holding onto my teacup. That was quite rare of her, since it was normal for her to smile cynically.

"You're feeling really great huh."

"Of course. I've been waiting for so long, and you are finally here."

"Ah..... You see, I have been busy with all sorts of things. I am really sorry."

"Forget it. Hiding from me the fact that you are moving here and not inviting me over after you had shifted - all these are things of the past. Compared to the past or the future, the present in which we are together like this is much more important. I'll not dwell much on your disloyalty."

"That really helps..... Ah, can I have another cup of tea?"

"Mmm. As much as you like."

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

My precious friend.

I had met her not too long after the separation with my sister. It goes back to our elementary school days.

If I am not wrong, Ginbe hasn't changed much since the first time we met.

Back then, her honest way of speech was just like how it is now. Even her mocking smile, which had left a deep impression on me, was the same as before.

From her body size, it seems like she is growing rather slowly. There's the impression that time around her had stopped.

There's only one thing I can say for certain in regards to 'the point where she is different from when we first met'.

She is currently sitting with a feminine posture. Just that.

"That's right..... I had a huge shock when I first come to know this."

"What are you talking about?"

"Oh, it's about the time when we first met. I was really shocked when I knew you are a girl."

"Ahh....."

Ginbe's expressions became gloomy,

"You do know that my family has all sorts of weird rules. Like how I have to live a poor life or how I was given the name 'Ginbe Haruomi', which is something not fitting of the modern era - plus I was raised as a boy when I was young."

"Mhmm, I did hear you saying that before. But still, I was really shocked back then. I had no doubt that you were a boy."

"I wasn't deliberately trying to hide it from you. I apologize if you are unhappy about it."

"No no, I am not. I just suddenly recalled on how shocked I was back then."

"Well..... thinking about it now, I guess the reason things are going wrong right now is because of how I had left you with the wrong impression since we met. This is just like realizing I had buttoned up the shirt wrongly only towards at the end, but the mistake happened at the very first button."

"Hmm? What are you saying?"

"Nothing, just some stuff about myself."

She took a sip of tea and ended the topic just like that.

But this person here.

She is in a good mood, but ever since we entered the room, it feels like she could not settle herself down.

She was constantly looking around nervously and correcting the posture of her seiza. She seemed restless.

"Ginbe."

"Mmm? W-What?"



"Are you meeting someone later?"

"Meeting someone? No, I do not have plans with anybody else other than you."

"Or how about you are about to be late for your work - there is nothing of that sort?"

"I am currently barred from earning my own cash. That's the rule of the Sawatari family. Akito do know this, right?"

"Ah..... perhaps you need to visit the bathroom very urgently?"

"No way. You are really rude."

My friend pouted her lips,

"What are you trying to say? You had been asking all sorts of weird questions for a while."

"Ah- no. It's just that you are behaving a little strangely. Yeah..... it's as if you are really nervous."

I can guarantee on how oblivious my respectable friend can be. To be truthful, I had seen plenty of those sort of scenes ever since we had been friends.

She is the sort of person who can speak as though she is giving a speech even though she is at the Carnegie Hall that is packed with people. Her unique mocking smile seldom changes as well, as if it is normal for her to be teasing me all the time.

"I am just slightly curious. It is normal for me to be thinking that you have something on, no?"

"....."

I asked her seriously, but then.

Ginbe's huge eyes blinked. She then let out a sigh.

"Akito, you really have no idea why?"

"Eh? Ah, mmm, I don't understand. Eh? Is it that strange? It's normal for people not to understand, right?"

"Oh my....."

She shook her head weakly,

"Use your common sense and think for a moment..... A girl has invited a guy to her room, and she is currently alone with that guy..... No, I do know you have never seen me as a woman..... But even so, I am still holding some expectations....."

"Hmm? What? I can't quite catch you."

"You an irritating idiot. It doesn't matter if you did not hear that properly."

She twisted her head to the side with a "hmmph",

"It just felt awfully silly for me to be nervous about this. I will never be nervous due to Akito ever again."

"Eh? Why? What's with your sudden anger?"

"Shut up, how irritating. There is a saying that goes, 'to play the lute to the cow'. But it

is a waste to play a single note to a stupid cow like you. You should just have an auditory hallucination about some sort of new and upcoming religion till the day you die."

For some strange reason, Ginbe was looking down on me.

Urmm- Mmm.

There will be times when she is like that.

When she mutters to herself something that I could not hear, then became angry all of the sudden.

But forget it.

That is nothing compared to the the years of our friendship as well as the grace that I had gotten from her.

Also, I have prepared with my ultimate attack.

"Ah- right, right. I had nearly forgotten."

I clapped my hands in a rather deliberate manner,

"Ginbe, I have a present for you."

"Present?"

"Yup. This."

With that said, I took something from my bag and placed it on the table.

"!"

Upon seeing the small box with the handles, her eyes shone, but just for a moment.

Ginbe immediately stared at me,

"Akito. You are a really despicable person."

"Ahaha, don't say that."

There's cake inside the box. The thing which my good friend loves the most, having a sweet tooth.

"I've long planned to take this to your house for a visit. It's true."

"Hmmpf, really..... ah!?"

Ginbe opened the box with a snort, but her eyes shone once again when she saw the contents.

"Uwa, this is Mont Blanc, isn't it!? You remembered my favorite?"

"Naturally."

I do treat her to some food occasionally, and thanks to that I remember her preferences in tastes. I mean, we do know each other for so long, despite my

incompetence.

"You like it?"

"There is no one on this planet who hates Mont Blanc."

"That's great. Savor it slowly."

"Hmph..... I do know this is your attempt to win me over. But having received such a gift from you, I have no choice but to forgive you."

"That will be great."

Though my friend's stare was still slightly sharp. I'll take the opportunity to change the topic.

"I say, Ginbe."

"Yes?"

"I did talk about this earlier on, but how's your financial status right now? Can you still handle it after moving to here?"

"No, I am still a little short on money."

She closed the cover of the cake box and shrugged,

"The rent of this apartment is almost the same to my previous one. Luckily for me, they did not request for any deposit or intermediary fees. So the only cash I spent on are the cost of moving the furniture over. As you can see, I possess only the bare minimum when it comes to the furniture, so that is not too costly as well. But....."

"Well, there are a lot of other places to spend on. I know that much, since I had just moved as well."

"Mhmm. Transferring schools is especially costly. A huge amount of my savings are spent on the uniforms and the textbooks. This is quite painful for someone as poor as me."

I talked about that a while ago.

Ginbe's family is a merchant family for generations. The Sawatari family has a huge influence behind the scenes in the financial world.

Their education policies are rather unique. The children of the Sawatari family, are made to live a life of poverty since young, so that they can 'see for themselves the value of money personally'.

This rule is implemented very thoroughly - if they are to overspend, there will not be any extra cash given to them. Not only that, they are banned from working as well. If they spent all their money, they will have to live the rest of their days without a single cent on their body.

It's said that this is for them to 'learn how to manage their cash under the constraints'. Though if you ask me, I am not too sure of how effective these policies are.

But that's just me. The Sawatari family are holding on to this tradition rather stubbornly, so Ginbe had to go along with it as well.

"Well, so."

Said Ginbe as she flashed her mocking smile once more.

"My financial situation is as tough as usual. For now, I have barely enough of food to eat. I cannot spend too much if I wish to live healthily."

"I guess-"

"What about you, Akito?"

"It's roughly the same for me as well. It's still a little tight. My income is not really stable, so I can only buy you Mont Blanc as my apology. I had originally wanted to buy a whole cake for you."

"What about your work?"

"Ah-....."

I stuttered when she asked me that.

"Well..... I'll love to say things are going smoothly, but I can't. I am even wondering if my employer is satisfied with my work."

"Can you still carry on?"

"I guess so. It's not to the stage where I am close to getting fired, so I can still continue my work. Honestly speaking, the income is currently..... yeah, it doesn't look like my income will increase at the moment. Considering what may happen in the future, I do need to have a decent amount of savings. There is not much left after subtracting away my savings."

"Fuu."

Ginbe crossed her arms,

"Needless to say, I was the one who introduced you to the place to look for work. You're lucky that I have quite a few contacts."

"That was really all thanks to you."

"Even so, all I did was to link you to 'someone who can find you a job'. I have no idea what job you are doing in order to get your daily allowance. And it seems like you have no intention of telling me."

"Ahaha..... I am obliged to keep it a secret - it will be a great if you can think of it that way."

"It's fine. I am from a business family, so I have no intention of pressing on any further. Since I am the one who provides you the opportunity for your work, I am just interested in how well you are doing."

Mhmm.

Indeed, it's just as she said. As part of the Sawatari family, Ginbe is awfully strict when it comes to trust.

"If you had done anything that embarrasses me..... You do understand, right?"

I could almost hear her saying the true meaning behind that line.

Whatever. That's really how it is.

Even so, Ginbe has always been very tolerant towards me regardless of what happens. I really cannot hold up my head in front of her.

"It's okay. Don't you worry, Ginbe. I am clear about those things as well. Frankly speaking, I am not doing an excellent job..... but even so, I have probably produced results which my employer is satisfied with. There is not a single chance for anyone to be complaining to you. And even if there is, I'll take the responsibility for it."

"..... Well, it's great you understand. Also, it's not like I don't trust Akito or anything. It's just that considering my stand, I'll have to give you some sort of preventive injection."

"Mmm. I understand."

To be honest, I am currently quite distressed about my job.

I have no time to be enjoying myself with my friend like this..... but my sister is involved in all this. The troubles that I had given to my employer are within acceptable limits.

"Are you fine over at your side? Ginbe."

"You're referring to?"

"Your life. It's rather tough, isn't it?"

"I can still manage. You don't have to worry."

"That won't do. Ultimately, your reason for moving over to here is because of me. As such, I am the culprit of your worsening financial situation."

"I did nothing like that. Don't put it to heart, really."

"How can I do that? I owe Ginbe a lot, and I have never repaid my debts."

"It's just me doing my own things. They are not matters which Akito has to worry about..... It's just me having my own motives."

"Eh? What did you say?"

"Nothing. Why do you always have to interrupt me when I am mumbling to myself?"

"It can't be helped even if you say that, since I did hear something."

"Forget it. In any case."

Ginbe said rather forcefully,

"I am not at the point where you have to worry about me. In fact, I never thought of you'll worry about me. Even in my current situation, I still think I am much more capable than you when it comes to living alone. And in actual fact, I have lived by myself for quite a while already."

"Ahh. You're right."

"It's okay. I'll not hesitate to seek Akito's help when I really need it - in fact, that scenario may actually happen in the near future."

"That's how it is huh. Mmm, that's fine."

"I'll not allow you to say no, okay? You had owed me quite a lot, and you have treated me as a 'good friend', right? I'll be waiting for it."

"Ah, mmm, of course..... Also, why does it sound really awkward when you are saying the words 'good friend'?"

"It's nothing. Just stop asking."

"Is that so? It totally doesn't sound like that."

"Ah how irritating. I said no, so that's fine, alright? Let's set that aside for a moment and share this cake together."

"Can I? I bought that for you to enjoy by yourself."

"I do like cakes, but that is only when there's someone whom I can share the taste with. Do you want to turn the experience into something tasteless and uninteresting, when I should be enjoying my cake instead? Accompany me in eating it."

- ♡ -

With that.

Ginbe and me ate the cake leisurely while harmoniously talking about all sorts of random things and reminiscing the past.

I managed to repay her kindness a little, and it seems like there will be more opportunity for me to do so in the future.

I had spent a rather satisfying day..... I guess? Yeah.

Chapter 3

Part 1

Ringggggg..... ringggggg.....

- The second day.

There was a phone call early in the morning.

It's not from my handphone, but the hostel's phone..

"Onii-chan~! Sorry, can you pick up the phone~!?"

From the kitchen came the sound of my sister.

She probably had her hands full from preparing our breakfast. Then again, I should be the one who is picking up the phone.

"Sorry Akiko. Can you pick it up?"

"Eh? But I am currently making the egg rolls~"

"I'll take responsibility if the dish goes bad. Please."

"Ah, alright. Since Onii-chan put it that way."

"Also, you are to tell the caller that I am not at home right now. While doing so, say that you have no idea where I am. That's all."

"U-Understood."

My apron-mode sister blanked out for a moment before she rushed to the phone.

I held my breath as I watched.

..... Why am I doing this?

Do I even need to say it? It's because I knew who the caller is.

"Yes, hello. This is the Himenokouji residence.Ah, mmm, no no no, that's nothing..... Ah, mmm, I am sorry, but he is not at home right now....."

I had requested those at my work to keep the details a secret from my sister. Nothing should be leaked even if it's my sister who is taking the phone-call.

"Right..... right. I understand. Alright, I'll convey that to him.No, it's nothing. Well then, goodbye."

Kacha, came the sound of her hanging up the phone.

It looked like the phone-call was over.

"Thank you Akiko. Ah, you really helped me out back there."

"Onii-chan."

"Ah. You had presented yourself so well even when you are on the phone. You had

really grown up to be a dependable sister. As your elder brother, I am really proud."

"You are wasting your efforts if you are trying to divert the topic, you know?"

..... Uh oh.

So it's an uphill task to switch the topic casually?

"We'll have our breakfast later. Onii-chan, please take a seat over there."

"Alright, fine."

As instructed, I sat down at the short-legged table.

My sister sat directly opposite of me,

"It's from a woman."

"Akiko, you had misunderstood. That person is not~"

"She's a young woman with a sweet lovely voice."

"You're right, but she is just someone whom I know from my job. My relationship with her is nothing like what you are imagining now."

"And she was close to crying."

"Ah-..... mmm. There are many reasons for that."

"And she said 'Akito-kun is so mean~'."

Uh oh.

She had accurately pointed out those of misleading words.....

"Do you have anything to say in your defense?"

"No. I don't need to defend myself~"

"Onii-chan! Please be honest!"

"No, you see, there is nothing for me to be truthful about. There really is nothing between us."

"It's still not too late!?"

"Not too late for what?"

"Onii-chan, you are saying that it is fine for my hands to be stained with blood?"

"Oi. You can't just say that sort of thing casually, even if you meant it as a joke."

I shook my head. Oh boy.

"I understand. I'll introduce the caller to you when the time is right. That should be able to prove my innocence. That's fine, right?"

"Uhhhhh..... This is not a lie, right?"

"No. I promise."

"Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh....."

"Have I broken any of my promises to you?"

"Uhhhhh.... Indeed, you have not, but....."

Well, I had no choice.

I want to avoid bringing work-related matters back home if possible, but that much better than being misunderstood for nothing. Since person in question is my sister, there is a possibility that she'll not let it go due to her misunderstandings.

"I understand. I believe in Onii-chan."

"Mhmm. Let's end it at that."

"Upon thinking deeper, it is impossible for Onii-chan to ignore me, his wife, and get another lover outside. Ehehe..... Akiko is really silly."

"Hye look, I think I did say the same thing back then. There are times when there's some strange terms to be found in your sentences."

Forget it.

It looked like she had regained her mood, so I shall not harp on that.

Compared to those things, I should say this while she's feeling happy.

"Ah- I say, Akiko."

"Ah, I am sorry, Onii-chan. The egg roll has failed, so can I replace that with a fried egg?"

"No, not that. About the agreement for today."

"Ah, if you are talking about the body wash, that is no longer of a problem. I had bought a slightly more expensive one that is not harsh on the skin. This is really good for your skin, you know~"

"No, it's not about that either. I'll be going somewhere after school today. I am sorry, but can you go home by yourself for today as well?"

"....."

"Akiko?"

"....."

"Oi~. Akiko~. Are you there?"

"..... Eh? Ah, yes. Of course. I am listening?"

"You alright? Your smile is slightly stiff."

"Mmm, it's fine.Onii-chan-! I am sorry~, but can you pick up the phone~!?"

No no no.

She has rewinded way too far back.

"There is another place where I want to go to today. That's why I have no choice but to let Akiko be by herself after school."

"..... Ahaha-. Ohii-chan, you are really~ funny. That is the funniest joke that I have ever heard from you. It would have been better to keep this gag for the future. This is not the finals of M-1, you know?"^[1]

"No no no. That is not a joke. And I am not a comedian either."

"Eh? But if that is the case, wouldn't it be that? It's like Armageddon, where I cannot go home with Onii-chan for two days straight?"

"Let's put aside the talk about whether the world will end due to me not going home with you, but it is true that I will not go home with you for two consecutive days. Well, that's how it is, so don't go to any weird place and go home straight after school. Remember to be a good girl!"

"God is already dead——!" My sister started Armageddon.

"*It's guilty!* It's a foul! Onii-chan's actions had clearly breached the Laws of Himenokouji!"

"I don't remember that such a law has ever existed."

"I can still forgive you if you are only unfaithful for once, but twice!? And consecutively!? There is a saying that the Buddha can endure it thrice, but your sister can only do it once!"

"Oi, stop slamming on the table. It will break."

"There is no god! It's pitch black! As a husband, Onii-chan has been unfaithful to me repeatedly, and that has hurt me, your wife, deeply!"

..... So she had slipped in one of those suspicious terms yet again.

Oh well.

I had expected this sort of reaction from her. And I had came up with a plan to deal with it.

"No, I cannot forgive you! I can never agree to it! This day, this very day, I'll be going home together with Onii-chan!"

"Look, Akiko."

"I won't listen! I'll never yield no matter what Onii-chan says! I'll persevere with all my might until Onii-chan gives in!"

"So you won't go on a date with me?"

"Onii-chan, your etiquette towards your sister is rather lacking! The morning kiss when we wake up; the farewell kiss when we leave the house; the welcoming kiss upon

returning home; and the goodnight kiss before going to sleep! At the very least, you have to do all these in order to be an awesome- Huh!? What did you just say!?"

"I said, so you won't go on a date with me?"

"D-D-Date, is it that!? Is it D.A.T.E!?"

"Mhmm. You are right."

"Could it be that!? A trick where you go, 'Even though I said it is a date, I am referring to that on the calendar. Ahaha, you have fallen for it'!?"

"I won't do that sort of thing."

"T-Then is it true!? Will you really go on a date with me!?"

"Mhmm. Well, since we don't really have much money, the date will be things like taking a stroll around the park. That's the best I can do."

"A stroll! With Onii-chan!?"

"You don't like it?"

"No, that's great! When will we be going!? Right now!?"

"For now, we should be having our breakfast and be on our way to school. It will be when I return back home. After I had settled my stuff after school."

"Uhhh..... Which means to say....."

"Mhmm. If you listen to me and be a good girl, I'll go on a date with you as a reward. You can do it, right?"

"Uhhhhh..... B-But if that is the case, then I'll not be able to go home with Onii-chan for today as well..... If I lack Onii-chan's nutrients for that long, I think I'll probably die....."

"Well, I do believe in Akiko. Just like how you believed in me."

"Uhhhhhhhhhhh....."

My sister stared at me in resentment; her expressions were saying, "Onii-chan, you are mean'.

It's before long that she gave what seemed to be a sigh of resignation,

"..... Understood. I'll endure for today as well, even after going through the painful ordeal yesterday. I have no choice by to agree if Onii-chan puts it that way."

"Mhmm. That is my younger sister."

- ♡ -

That's how it roughly was.

I had finally managed to convince my sister for today as well.

No, now is not the time to be talking about going on a date and stuff. It's about time for me to clear my tasks, since she looked like she was about to cry..... No, that can't be helped.

To me, Akiko is my dear little sister.

And right now, my top priority is to deal with my sister's brother-complex.

In order to reduce the time spent with my sister to avoid the misunderstandings and unnecessary troubles from others, going on a date once or twice should be considered as a necessary expenditure. Mmm, that can't be helped.

.....

.....

.....

Mhmm.

That feels slightly off. Forget it, it's probably just my imagination.

I can already predict more troubles waiting for at the place that I am about to visit, as compared to yesterday. Let's not worry about the unnecessary things - regain my composure, and focus. Yup.

Part 2

It is dubbed as the most expensive residential area of Yamanote, occupying the most expensive land.

"Those with total assets of 10 digits or less are not to step in here."

And there's a board with that line erected here..... or not. But for a commoner is to step into the place, he must either have a huge amount of courage or be incredibly oblivious - that is the sort of place it is. The land where Nasuhara Anastasia's house is built on.

"..... What can I say? This is really impressive."

I subconsciously said that as I stared at the towering building before me.

It's not overly glamorous.

Neither does it look bulky.

It just exudes a sense of classiness - that's the sort of feeling that the modern and board two-story building gives.

The design is not overly trendy to the point where it sticks out like a sore thumb, but it does keep up with the current trend, that's how it feels like.

Uh- mmm, it's really beautiful.

They must have hired a pretty capable designer to design this house.

To be honest, I am slightly intimidated.

Even though I used to live with the rich, I am still your poor average Joe deep down. I will be hesitant to even step into such a place under normal circumstances. Don't even mention about intruding on the hospitality here, since I would be rejecting the idea furiously.

This is bad.

I should have brought better snacks here. It seemed like I did not think through it thoroughly - I only brought the same cake which I gave Ginbe yesterday.

But then again, my wallet is pretty dry, so it's not like I can afford anything that's much better-

"How long are you going to stand around there?"

Just then.

I heard a familiar voice. It came from the speakers next to the door.

"Come on in. You looked like a suspicious person if you are standing at that place with your mouth wide open."

"Ah- good day, Nasuhara. Ahh, it's a really spectacular house."

"The guards of that spectacular house are about to rush towards you rather fiercely. Please step into the door right now if you do not wish to be surrounded by burly guards who will interrogate you using inhumane means."

"Ahhh, mmm. I do know that. It's just..... how do I put it - there seems to be no indication of the door opening."

"Ara I am really sorry. You are right. You can't get in if the door is not opened."

"Mhmm. Sorry, but I'll have to trouble you."

"Ara. Speaking of which, how do I operate this? I don't really know since it's something that I don't really use that often."

"Oi oi. This is your house right? Please remember those sort of things."

"Ara, how rude of you. It is as if you are implying that I do not know a single thing about my house despite me living in here, and that I am someone without any life skills who cannot survive in the society - that is what it sounds like to me."

"No no no, that's not it. I totally do not mean it that way. Please don't get into some sort of weird misunderstanding."

"Well then, can you express your true feelings via the relevant actions and words?"

"What do you mean by relevant actions and words?"

"I demand that you are to apologize and compensate."

"I understand. I am sorry, and I apologize. I had no intention to slander you. That's how it is, so it will be great if you can forgive me. I don't have enough money to compensate you, so please let me off the hook for that."

"Is that so. I have understood your intentions. Since you have lowered yourself that much, I can't possibly do anything to you despite my threats. However, do be careful of your words in the future. What you had just said to me may actually get you in lawsuit if you are at somewhere else."

"Though I think it's unlikely for what I had said to lead that..... Forget it, lets put that aside. Can you please hurry up and open the door for me?"

"What an impatient man. Impatient guys are not popular among girls, you know."

"I don't know what you are talking about, but in any case, please open the door quickly."

"Didn't you hear what I had just said? I did say I have no idea on how to open it, did I not?"

"That is why I said you should remember that sort- ah- no, forget it. Open the door, really. Right now."

"I understand. How about this: I shall get the guidebook, which is about as thick as a

textbook, and read through it from the beginning. Yes, I shall do just that. Please don't worry - as long as I can understand it, things like opening the door is just a piece of cake for me."

"No, you don't have to spend your time on that sort of time-wasting thing. You just have to ask someone who knows how to operate it to open the door, right? Like the maids at your house or something."

"Why are you that impatient? Impatient guys are not popular among girls, you know."

"Look, you should know it since you are looking at the circuit TV, right? The burly guards which you had mentioned are coming towards me with a rather hostile look on their face. That's the reason why I am impatient."

"Oh that's right. I did order to deal with the suspicious person who has appeared in front of the door within a minute."

"So you are actually the root of all evil!?"

..... After that, I had finally managed to enter into the premises of the Nasuhara house safely.

Oh boy. It took me that much effort just to step into the house. I wonder what will actually happen after this.

- ♡ -

I was brought to Nasuhara's room, which was surprisingly girly.^[2]

No. The word 'surprisingly' was too conservative.

I should not be using any other words to describe it at a time like this. I should change that to: it's so girly you can't possibly be any more girly than that..

With a light brown color as the backdrop, coupled with a flowery wallpaper and wooden flooring.

Tall ceilings with windows that provided good lighting.

The room was meticulously decorated with lots of stuffed animals and other characters.

The furniture, take the bed or the curtains for example, are filled with lace and hem. They are all light pink in color as well.

Of course, these room is not done in poor taste. Instead, Nasuhara's sense of style has allowed her to blend classiness and cuteness together nicely.

The impression one gets from this room is totally different from the usual emotionless expressions that she wears on her face - that's the sort of room it is.

"Are you surprised?"

Just then.

Nasuhara asked me that question when I was still staring around the room and being overwhelmed by how girly the room is.

" 'She is already in the second year of high school, and yet she still decorates her room with dolls and whatsoever. She must be a pervert who is too deeply engrossed with girly things, or she is someone needs to get psychiatric help - it has got to be one of these two' - that is what you are thinking of right now, right?"

"No no no. Nothing of that sort."

"Really? I seem to be hearing these words that are stuck in your throat ever since you came - 'I'll get infected by her as well if I am to continue staying at the room of a girl who has something wrong with her head. I better leave as quick as I can'. Those words are ringing in my ears repeatedly."

"Urm. That is just your imagination."

"How very suspicious. It is obviously you are at me as if I am a really pitiful girl. It's pointless trying to hide it because I very well what you are thinking."

Forget it.

That was not her first time where she kept harping on things.

I laughed heartily,

"Indeed, I was really surprised when I first stepped into a room which looks like it belongs to the theme park instead. However, I'll not look at you differently. I am fine with the dolls or the girly state of your room. I don't hate it, you know?"

"Who knows? Can you still remain that calm after knowing I have named each and every doll of mine, and that I talk to them every night before I sleep?"

"Ah..... Hmm. Indeed, that is just slightly too..... no, it's fine. Isn't that great, that girly sort of feeling? Even if you have already grown up into an adult, I don't think it is necessary for you to discard the purity you had when you are a child."

"When I am mentally unstable, I'll stab a knife into the stomach of the doll and chant curses as I pull out the cotton inside bit by bit. You are still fine even after knowing this?"

"Ugh..... That is rather bad..... No wait, have you really done that before?"

"Or if the young and robust me presses my boiling hot body against the doll and use it to pleasure myself every night - how about that?"

"Wait! That feels really dangerous! Stop talking about this!"

"Putting it in your everyday terms, it means that I love to use my dolls to mas***** every night."

"No, there is no need for that sort of explanation! And also, I did say before I am against girls saying that sort of thing, right!?"

"It should be me who has said it countless times already. I just want to harass you regardless of when and where we are, and whatever we are doing does not matter to me. I said it so many times that I am tired of it, and yet that bird-brain of yours can't even remember simple things such as these? That is just unacceptable even if your intelligence is like that of an insect, you know?"

"Whoa, I am the one who is attacked by you inexplicably, so why the sudden rage due to your embarrassment!?"

"If the same thing happens again next time, I'll make you buy lingerie for me at the females-clothing section. And you'll have to puff your chest proudly and say, 'This is neither for my elder sister nor for my younger sister - it is actually for my own personal use'."

"And you brought out your favorite gag without even batting an eyelid!"

This won't do.

I was led around by her pace without me knowing.

Nasuhara set the pace of our conversation perfectly, so much so that I had allowed her to gain control without me knowing. Then again, is it me playing along too easily, or did I allow myself to be led by her effortlessly? I have to think about it more carefully.

"Just joking."

Nasuhara said that, while maintaining the same expression of hers.

"Everything I said earlier on was a joke. They are all lies."

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes, that's right. it's just a simple exchange of pleasantries, so please don't mind it."

"Ah, is that so..... ah, that's fine then."

"I may not look like it, but I am someone with status after all. I'll not talk about my night life openly and truthfully in front of others."

"Ahh, mmm. If it is all a joke, it's fine..... But then again, your jokes are rather hard to comprehend."

"Incidentally, this room itself is part of the joke."

"That is really hard to understand!"

It's impossible for me to realize that.

"What do you mean!? What do you mean by this room being part of the joke!?"

"I prepared this room in a hurry after it was decided that you will be coming today,. My actual room is located somewhere else."

What should I say..... this is beyond my comprehension - that is just too random.

That takes too much effort. She had actually prepared the room specially to fool me.

"Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Could it be that you are an idiot beyond my imagination?"

"How rude of you. I had said it countless times before - I will want to harass you no matter how when or hard it is."

"No, even so-"

"Just like how Bible is to Christians or Quran is to Muslims - that is the absolute commandment to me. Harassing you regardless of the situation is my one and only objective in life. It is also the reason for my existence into this world."

"It just feels like the level of exaggeration had just raised by another level....."

"Going back on topic, I was thinking, don't you think that fantasy and mental illness sound really similar? Both the way of writing, and the meaning."^[3]

"Alright, it's about time we quit talking about this topic. Stop."

Well, she was getting really excited for some unknown reason.

The silly conversation shall end here. And the contents of our conversation was getting rather crazy.

"Hey, shouldn't it be about time that we take a seat? We have been standing in this room ever since we came in."

"You are right. Let us move to the living room then."

"No, isn't this room fine?"

What's the point of us moving to another room after it has came down to this? As such, I sat next to the table.

"Hmm? What's wrong, Nasuhara? Take a seat too."

"..... Sure."

With that, Nasuhara sat down opposite of me.

I don't know if it was just my imagination, but she seemed slightly unhappy. Why? Is it because I took a seat without her consent?

Oh well, whatever.

"Are your parents at home? If it's okay, I wish to greet them."

"My parents are neither unemployed or NEETs, so they are probably working somewhere in this world. Also, they seldom come back to this house."

"Do you have siblings then?"

"I am the only child."

"Mmm, is that so. That can't be helped then."

"Incidentally, we are the only ones in this house right now. I had sent the maids out to buy a few things. The guards were given the instructions not to enter as well."

"Heh, is that so."

"Fu. I did not miss the brief instance when a beastly flash of light streaked through your eyes. You have revealed your true self upon knowing that we are alone in this huge empty house."

"Urm. That is just your imagination."

" 'Kukuku, there will be no one coming even if you scream at the top of your voice. Just give up and listen to me.' I seem to be hearing these words that are stuck in your throat - they are ringing around my ears for a while now."

"Urm. That is just your auditory hallucination."

There has to be a limit to your slandering.

Forget it. It's not like she came to bad-mouth people only recently. I'll just set that aside.

"But that's how it is huh. How disappointing. I do not have much opportunity to come here, so I wish to greet them if I can."

"There is no need for that."

"No no no. This is basic etiquette, something that is to be expected."

"No. That is not necessary."

..... Huh?

Is it my imagination? Although her expressions had remained the same, it felt like she had became slightly angry. Did I say something that made her feel unhappy?

"Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Pardon me for being nosy, but..... Are you not on good terms with your parents?"

"Yes, that is how it is."

She nodded her head rather straightforwardly.

"However, allow me to say this so as not to tarnish their reputation. It is not like they have treated me badly - that is not the case. I cannot call them as model parents though, even if I am to be courteous about it."

"Well then, why are you on bad terms with them?"

"Because I am at my rebellious phase."

..... Ah-.

I see.

"You must be surprised. About how I am at my rebellious phase right now."

"Not at all? I can actually accept that."

"..... It's not like I want it."

Surprisingly, she made a rare expression (if it can even be considered as one) - Nasuhara pouted to show her unhappiness.

That was slightly..... wait, no. It was actually pretty cute.

"May I know which part of you is unwilling?"

Just by the term 'rebellious phase' alone, it's like I had understood everything. Like how Aristotle screams "I get it!". Isn't that answer as clear cut and wonderful as $E=mc^2$?^[4]

"Pouncing onto the mistakes made by others during their speech and harassing them with it - I think Nasuhara's action is a rather typical symptom of someone in her rebellious stage."

"I don't act like that to everyone."

"Really?"

"That is how it is."

"Then do you only act like that towards me?"

"Yes, that's right."

"Oi oi, that is rather terrible. Why do you only act like that towards me?"

"..... You have no idea why?"

"Why will I? I had just met you not too long ago. What did I do to you?"

"....."

A small sigh.

Nasuhara gave a light sigh, a really light one.

"You are a virgin, are you not?"

"W-Why are you talking about that now?"

"You have not went out with any girls up till now, am I wrong?"

"You're not wrong..... but why are you bringing that up?"

"It's nothing."

With a "fu", Nasuhara gave another sigh.

It's really rare of her, but there is a lot of changes to Nasuhara's expressions today.

"..... I had actually confessed a few days ago, and it was something that I had done with great determination. I have done all that, and yet I did not manage to convey my feelings to this guy - is that how it is? Even so, I cannot bring myself to say the same thing twice..... This blockhead is way beyond my imagination....."

"Eh, what? I didn't quite catch that."

"I am just mumbling to myself. Please do not put it to heart."

"Oh, mmm. Since you had said that, I'll just let it be."

"That will be great."

"Also, I am quite curious about this for a while already."

"About what?"

I looked at the knees of Nasuhara.

A stuffed teddy bear was sitting on her knees since a while back - more specifically, back when we were talking about her rebellious phase.

Nasuhara has been playing with its ears, its hands, and then its legs. And she is repeating these actions.

"..... Ah."

Nasuhara followed the direction of my gaze and looked downwards. She gasped when she saw her hands.

She froze temporarily.

A few seconds later, she placed the teddy bear by her side in a fluster,

"That was just a bad example."

That was what she said.

.....

What bad example - but I'll not tsukkomi on that yet.

"Hey, Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Could it be that you actually like dolls?"

"Not at all."

"Your habit of playing with dolls subconsciously - doesn't it prove just that?"

"How can that be? How is that possible?"

"Really?"

"Yes, really."

"Ah- come to think of it, you said earlier this room is specially decorated in a fantasy theme when you knew I'll be here for a visit, right? And that your room is somewhere else."

"Yes, that's how it is."

"Well, since this is a rare occasion, can you let me take a look at that room?"

"You are a pervert for saying that you want to take a look at a girl's boudoir."

..... Hmm.

That answer from her - it feels not quite sharp enough.

"Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Just as I thought, this is actually your room-"

"What are you talking about?"

I was denied.

Feels like she has anticipated my words. I was interrupted before I can finish my sentence.

Hmm. Looks like it is a total bingo?

"Really~, how surprising~. To think that Nasuhara is so girly and loves dolls-"

"That's not it."

"There's nothing wrong in liking dolls. Why are you denying it?"

"It will tarnish my pride if I like dolls at my current age..... Of course, this has nothing to do with me, since I like neither dolls nor fantasy themes."

"So there are no dolls that you particularly like?"

"There are no dolls that I particularly like."

"That teddy bear is really cute. Can you give it to me?"

"He is not a close friend of mine, but I have no intention of letting it go either. Please pick another one."

"Really? Hmm, so that's how it is."

I couldn't help but to grin.

So that's how it is.

I am surprised that Nasuhara has such a side to her.

Her mysterious aura and her overwhelming beauty, plus the fact that she is revered in

school - but they are precisely the reason why it felt like I have stumbled upon something something that is in my favor.

Incidentally, since it is always the case of me being teased by her, I felt a slight sense of superiority when our roles are reversed.

"Hey, Nasuhara. If you do not wish for others to see your room filled with dolls, you should brought me to another instead, for example the living room."

"I stress that this is not my room."

"Well, this is just that, you know? You had dug your own grave by saying too much. You had no intention of letting me know that this is your room, right? I guess this is what you call, to be betrayed by your own intelligence?"

"I have no idea what you are talking about."

"See, that is a rather weak reply from you. It would have been a much sharper answer given the usual circumstances, right? You would have used all your means to say terrible things to me, right?"

"Nothing of that sort. My am not in a good condition today, that's all."

"See? It is quite obvious from that answer of yours. If you had found even the smallest chance to hit back, you would have struck back with all your might. That is the typical Nasuhara."

"I, did not....."

"Ahh, don't worry. I won't say it to any of the students council members. This will be a secret that is just between you and me. Ah- Even so, I am really surprised. To think Nasuhara has such an interest. You are so hard to get along with - if only you have shown that sort of easy-to-get-along feeling more often, it would have been great."

"....."

Nasuhara was becoming more and more silent.

Urm, this is bad.

I was getting too carried away. Did I tease her too much?

"How humiliating."

Finally, she laughed and muttered to herself expressionlessly,

"It is the first time since I was born that I have tasted such humiliation. I swear I'll take revenge for the humiliation I have received today."

"No no no, there's no humiliation or anything. You're exaggerating. Also, this is not something that needs your revenge, right?"

"It is too late for you to be regretting now."

"Look, isn't it your fault in the first place? To reveal your interests to me."

" It is the first time since I was born that I have tasted such humiliation. I swear I'll take revenge for the humiliation I have received today - that's how it is. I am saying this twice because it is that important."

Urm- mmm.

Does she have to put it like that?

Then again, she was say it expressionlessly in monotone - somehow, I felt an overwhelming pressure coming from her.

"Since I am someone who acts swiftly - I thus declare, I shall have my revenge right now."

With that said, Nasuhara stood up slowly.

..... Urm.

Things are developing in a rather strange direction?

I was still sitting down, trying hard not to show my nervousness. I raised my danger-awareness by several levels.

I may not look like it, but I had received lessons on how to be a young master, and thus I do have some sort of knowledge on self defense and stuff. Even if Nasuhara was to use force on me, I would not be in the state where I could not defend myself at all, but..... my self-defense techniques are still ultimately at the level where I just had 'some sort of knowledge' to it.

The initiative had already been taken away.

Nasuhara did not give out anything similar to a murderous aura when she made that declaration. But for her to stand up like that - what was she intending to do?

I am someone who belonged to the retaliatory type, so I'll wait to see what sort of actions she would take, but-

"Fu. It is rather hot today."

For some unknown reason, Nasuhara said that line in a deliberate manner while still putting on an expressionless face.

"I am about to perspire from the heat."

"..... Is that so? We are only at the month of April, you know? Even global warming should not affect the temperatures that much."

"There is no other option. I shall open the windows."

Ignoring my words, Nasuhara walked towards the windows.

The windows of this room are facing south, while she was sitting at the north side of the room. Meaning to say, Nasuhara will have to pass by me if she wants wants to open the windows.

Her acting is rather poor.

But even if it is fake, it has to be now if she is aiming for me.

"Oops. I slipped."

Just as I had thought - as I was thinking of that.

Nasuhara fell towards my direction by pretending that her foot was caught in something,.

Of course, I was prepared for it as I had already guessed her intentions. I should be able to handle whatever attacks she used.

..... Urm.

It really looked like she is falling towards my direction? Though it's deliberate, the fall looks strangely real - if she falls like this, she will definitely be hurt-

I instantly changed my plan in engaging towards her.

Upon deciding that the fall is not a deliberate one, I changed my posture immediately to catch her.

"Uhhh... Ha."

Everything happened in an instant.

It's impossible for me to maintain my balance nicely, and there is no way I could support her coolly. The only thing I could do was to become her cushion, though in a rather unsightly manner.

Which means to say, that I am lying down on my back, while Nasuhara was down on her fours, but..... Whatever, since I couldn't do it coolly.

"You have good reflexes."

Nasuhara praised me with her usual emotionless expression while maintaining her position.

"You were actually thinking about your next move, but after clearing all your doubts, your actions were swift and without hesitation. There is no need for doubts to declare that you had passed."

"Really? Thanks."

Though I had no idea on what I had passed.

"Look, that fall of yours may be planned, but you did it without holding back. You may get injured if you did actually fall onto the ground like you were supposed to. Do be more careful."

"I see. I will be careful."

"Mhmm. Please do."

"I understand."

"Mhmm. Please."

"....."

"....."

"....."

"....."

"..... Hey, Nasuhara?"

"Yes?"

"I am thinking - it's about time you get off me."

"I am unable to do that."

"Ehhhhh?"

I gave a disturbed smile while looking at Nasuhara, who was staring at me while riding on me like a horse,

"Well, but if you don't move away, then I will not be able to get up."

"Yes. Theoretically, that's how it is."

"Urm, then..... may I know how long are you planning to be in this position?"

"Until my revenge is done."

"Ehhhhhhh~?"

That was bad.

Did I really..... piss her off? I can't tell from her emotionless expression.

But it feels really terrible to be staring at each other in such a position. I had never experienced this situation, and we are actually a place like this, Even with these conditions were removed, things are still going bad for me. Nasuhara is indeed an extremely charming girl if we ignore her usual actions and speech, so I was slightly at a loss on what to do. Rather than being disturbed, I am embarrassed to death.

Urm.

In any case, I should try negotiating with her since things have came down to this.

What should I do to calm her anger? I have to get that answer from her.

"Look, Nasuhara."

"What is the matter?"

"You said you will be maintaining this position regardless of what happens until your revenge is done."

"Yes, I did say that."

"Specifically speaking, what are the conditions for your revenge to be complete - can you tell me the answer to that? What exactly are you planning to do by riding me like a horse?"

"..... Well, in regards to that."

I stared straight into Nasuhara, who was at a loss of words.

I tried to be as sincere and honest as I could.

The basics of the art of negotiation is to successfully convey your sincerity to the other person. If I am to look away or laugh accidentally, it will result in me stirring Nasuhara's anger. In the unfavorable situation of me being ridden by someone, I will have to be careful.

She was staring straight into me.

And I stared back at her even more intensely.

"Uhh."

A tiny moan leaked out from Nasuhara.

Was she frightened by my stare? I have absolutely no intention of making her retreat via intimidation, but it was a sign that things were going better for me. I had gained the upper hand psychologically.

I should grab onto this chance and strike.

"I hope you can tell me. What are your intentions? What should I do?"

"....."

"You are a girl who is riding on a guy's body. I understand very well that it is not something that can be settled hastily. I also understand perfectly how your emotions are currently running high."

"....."

At the home ground of the other party, in an enclosed space with no one else, and in an extremely unfavorable physical position. Since the opposite party has full control of my killing rights, I would have to use my ultimate techniques as well. Despite me lying on my back, I increased the warmth of my voice and acted naturally while taking actions.

"I do know about how you are feeling, and if possible, I want to reciprocate to those feelings as sincerely as I can. So please tell me your feelings, using your words. Try your best to convey it all to me."

"....."

"Nasuhara. What do you want to do? What do you wish to do to me?"

"....."

"Nasuhara."

"....."

"Nasuhara?"

Nasuhara was still looking downwards at me with her emotionless expression. However, the silence of hers was a little too long for someone as eloquent as her.

(.....?)

I couldn't help but be worried.

She is someone who is as beautiful as a human doll. But could it be that this girl is actually not human, but just a human-figurine - I was hit with that illusion.

It was a really realistic illusion for me at that point of time

What if she, whose beauty is nothing short of a miracle, is actually artificial and man-made - I became really frightened when the thought crossed my mind.

"Nasuhara?"

I raised up my hand half-consciously.

I touch her cheeks, which was just like that of a plastic model's.

To confirm her consciousness via my sense of touch; to see if there was any warmth - that was all I was intending to do,

"—— Uh!?"

pa.

Nasuhara's face was instantly dyed red in sync with that onomatopoeia.



"—— Uh! —— Uh!?"

An inaudible cry. She immediately disengaged the position of her on her fours and stood up,

"~~~~~ Uuuuuuuuh!"

She rushed to her bed in a panic and dived onto it, before pulling her blanket over and wrapping herself into a ball.

.....

..... Ah.

What's happening?

In any case. This girl is indeed human.

"Oi~. Nasuhara~. Oi~."

"....."

"Ah, I am sorry. I had no idea you'll be that shocked by my actions. That was unintentional. Really."

"..... How humiliating."

Softly.

From the ball of blanket, I could hear her muttering something.

"The girl was doing things like that, so how did that guy maintain his composure? They are at the girl's house. Alone. And she was riding on him. Could it be that he had totally no interest in girls other than his younger sister? I better come up with a countermeasure to that."

"..... ?"

I couldn't hear her too clearly since her voice was muffled by her blanket. However, I was pretty certain that she was saying words of hatred.

"I want to have my revenge."

Nasuhara said that after a moment of silence. While peeking out from her blanket with one of her eyes.

Despite her scary sentence, the look of her was slightly - no, it was pretty cute.

"I have decided to make you pay for the countless humiliations you had given me today. I swear to heavens that I will remind myself constantly of this humiliation. I swear with my life on the line that I will make you regret for what you had done today."

"No no no, hold on a second. With the way things are going, I can't quite understand the need for you put it that way. Of course, it was indeed wrong of me to touch your face without informing you....."

"I will definitely fulfill whatever I say. Please be prepared mentally."

Her tone was monotonous, but it sounded very stubborn.

Nasuhara declared as she continued to stare at me from within her blankets (upon closer look, one of her eyes were slightly teary, how cute).

"I had no choice..... Ah, I am really sorry. I apologize, so please forgive me."

"There is no use apologizing."

"Will you forgive me if I go on my knees and kowtow?"^[5]

"I will not forgive you."

"Even if I die in apology?"

"If you think you can erase the humiliation you had done to me just with your life, then you couldn't have been more wrong."

"Ahaha..... Uh, forget it then. I will be thankful to god if you can go easy on me."

..... With that.

My visit to Nasuhara's home ended up with me causing Nasuhara to be fuming with anger.

Strangely, it did not feel like I was hated by her despite making her angry. Also, there will be plenty of chances for me to resolve this.

Perhaps I should buy her favorite doll or something and give it to her as a present of apology - I left Nasuhara's house as I think of that.

Notes

1. See on [Wikipedia](#)
2. Original text is fantasy-like room, or something like that. For English, girly fits the closest in this context. I'll be using the term girly for the rest of this chapter.
3. メルヘン vs メンヘル, which is Märchen and mental respectively
4. the raw use Aristotle so it's not a translation mistake
5. In case if one does not know what kowtow means, please do a search on the dictionary/online

Chapter 4

Part 1: 11th April, AM7:00

And so.

The consecutive days of house-visiting is down to the final day.

The person whom I am visiting today is none other than her, which for me is something quite daunting - in all sorts of perspective. Or rather, you can say that I am not that interested. Then again, it would be very unnatural for me to skip just her visit.

An so, I will have to convince my sister today as well in order to create my own personal time.

Uh- mmm.

What should I do?

I used the praise method for the first day, and praise+bait on the second, which my sister accepted grudgingly. But I don't think those methods will be effective again.

Even though Akiko is very obedient towards me and her train of thought is really simple, she will still smell a rat if I carried out these suspicious actions for three consecutive days.

Things will definitely become troublesome if Akiko knows about my house visits.

What should I do..... I couldn't come up with any decent plans.....

I couldn't come up with anything good no matter how hard I try. I was stuck.

It looked like I had to prepare myself to proceed forcefully at the cost of making my sister unhappy - just when I decided to do that.

A small miracle happened.

No, I was not too sure if that can be called a miracle. But in any case, it definitely happened at a perfect timing. I was offered a glimmer of light in my otherwise hopeless situation.

But if I do that, the pros and cons will surely..... no, it will definitely bring about more headaches for me? Yup.

Forget it, I was left with no choice.

I'll just utilize this chance to its fullest and focus on the current crisis.

- ♡ -

It's usual students' hostel, at the all-too familiar caretaker's room.

Facing the back of my sister who was making breakfast while humming to a tune, I

spoke.

"Hey Akiko. There is something-"

"Akiko must turn away Onii-chan quickly when he is attempting to speak to me."

"Eh?"

I did not anticipate that.

"What? Why?"

"It will not do if you look down on me. I have already guessed what Onii-chan is about to say."

"Ohhh. What's that?"

"It will be something along the lines of how you will not be able to go home with me after school today. You are intending to do some immoral act amounting to *neglect* towards your cute younger sister, right?"

"Incidentally, *neglect* has the meaning of abandoning. Are you admitting right now that you are an infant-like person in the society, who is unable to survive without the delicate care and concern from others?"

"It is useless to try to seal my mouth with that sort of logic. I had utilized the compassion of a cute younger sister for these two days and tolerated Onii-chan's barbaric acts, but I will not yield today. I will overcome all obstacles and make you go back with me today."

"No matter what happens?"

"Of course."

"You will not change your mind?"

"Of course. I am backed by justice. I will not change my stand even if the world is to be overturned at this very instant."

"I see. I fully understand your thoughts."

I nodded my head solemnly,

"Speaking of which, I have accidentally stumbled upon this while I was packing our luggage that we had from our house moving."

"What? So you are planning to say some random things to divert the topic yet again. I had already seen through that scheme of yours, and I'll not fall for it-"

A sound of *pita*. ^[1]

While remaining in the posture of what looks like her handing me something, my sister froze in an instant.



A few seconds later.

She exchanged glances with me while maintaining that stiff expression. She shook her head and hands.

My sister said.

"Dat's wrong."

"..... Why did you use dialects subconsciously? I want to know your excuses."

"No. It's not like what it seems."

"This book here. It's yours, right?"

"No, it's not! It just so happens that it is in my care for these past few weeks. It is not something I bought with my pocket money."

"But the back of the cover has your name written on it?"

"Ahhh darn! This disciplined personality of me writing my name on all of my belongings has backfired on me!?"

Well then.

The object that has shaken my sister so much to the point of her speaking in dialect subconsciously is something I had discovered by chance. The problem is about what the object really is.

"No, it really isn't. This book is like what it seems. Or rather, please take into consideration of fact that I am currently in my teenage years before making a fair judgement....."

It's a book.

The size of a typical mall book, costing at a thousand yen each. In this country, its sales is second only to that of bunkobon - the typical books.

Needless to say, there's nothing wrong with it being a book.

"Minan Publishing. <The Story of Forbidden Love>."

"Uwa!?"

" 'Sixteen years-old high-school student Akio, who is secretly in love with his younger sister Akina.' "

"Onii-chan!? Quit reading the synopsis already!"

" 'Without telling anyone the feelings which he has been harboring for a long time, Akio has kept them hidden deep in his heart. But thanks to some minor incidents, Akio gradually could not suppress his taboo thoughts.' "

"Uhhh!?"

" 'On the other hand, Akina has gradually realized her brother's feelings. Not long after, the two of them began lustng for each other-'"

"Uehhh!?"

"The illustration on the cover is the scene of Akio and Akina entangled to each other passionately."

"T-That's enough Onii-chan..... I give, give up....."

I looked downwards at my sister, who was squatting on the tatami while hugging her own body weakly,

"Anything you wish to say to your defense?"

"Please..... Please pretend as though you did not..... see it....."

"I can't do that."

"No! It's a misunderstanding!"

My sister stood up with her remaining strength and began explaining.

"Please do not be fooled by the book's title and cover! This book is really wonderful! Although there are some overly stimulating content, but it is totally about pure love!"

"This is a novel about incestuous relationship, you know?"

"No! It's nothing as vulgar as that - this is literature! I did not read it with a perverted mind, I swear!"

"The names of the protagonists are Akio and Akina."

"I admit I was hooked by the names of the protagonists! However, that is really just part of the reason! If you read the other works of Shindou Koichirou - the author of this book, you will be able to understand!"

"..... Could it be that Akiko is a fan of this author?"

"A die-hard fan!"

"..... Are you serious....."

"Oi Onii-chan!? Please do not try to shun me that obviously! That will really hurt me!"

"No, even if you say that....."

Contrary to me who was slowly sinking into a gloomy mood, my sister has revived.

"Please, do read it once! If you do that, you will definitely understand his good points!"

"No way."

"At the very least, read the prologue!"

"No no no, don't even think about it. Let me go, seriously."

This is probably that.

Turning the disaster into a blessing and pulling me to 'that side' by making me read the book - she was probably planning that? Really, what sort of joke is that?

"Akiko."

"Are you willing to read it!?"

"Nope. Even so, everyone's interests are different. Though I have quite a lot of things that I wish to say in regards to you reading that book, I do wish to respect your interests as much as I can."

"What do you mean?"

"This time, I'll pretend that I had never seen this book. As you had wished."

"Really!?"

"In return, you have to promise me this. From now on, you will make sure I do not see these books ever again."

"Understood."

"And you are not to talk about the subject of this book. No matter what."

"I understand that as well."

"And finally. You are to give me approval to go somewhere after school today."

"Uhh..... T-That has nothing to do with this....."

"You will approve, right?"

"Uuuhhhhhh....."

Akiko hugged her head since she could not agree to it totally. But she did understand she was in a very bad position.

Soon, with an expression of her giving up, she said with a crestfallen look,

"..... I understand. Akiko will stay at home obediently for today as well."

"Mmm. That's it."

"But please return home as soon as you can, neh? I'll prepare a scrumptious dinner and wait for your return. Promise?"

"OK. I'll try my best."

- ♡ -

And with that, I had managed to convince my sister for the third day as well.

..... Oh boy.

Even then, she has a really shocking hobby. And she don't have to be that precise about it.

Then again, did I take a wrong step in negotiating with her by using thing as my shield? Would it be better if I had remained silent and pretended that I didn't see it?

No way, that's impossible. It is impossible for me not to react after seeing that.

Therefore, I should at least use it as a leverage in the negotiation - it was definitely better to make use of it like that.

This thing will definitely take its retribution on me in the future - that was the premonition I had. Then again, with more important things at hand, I shall set that aside for the moment.

Part 2: Same day, PM5:00

President of St. Ririana Academy's students council - Nikaido Arashi.

She has an insatiable desire towards sex, which can only be explained by some sort of mutation within her. She lives the farthest away from school.

It took me two hours by train and foot.

Which the students of St. Ririana Academy coming different places, this distance is not far compared to many others. Even so, considering the (what should be) extremely busy schedules of our Seito-Kaichou, the long journeys to and fro must have been a huge burden for her.

Despite all that, Kaichou's grades are still the level's *top*, as though it is something to be expected. Somehow, she has managed to clear those busy tasks of the students' council without even batting an eyelid (well, probably) - and that makes me speechless.

If only her personality - or rather, her sexual drive - could be just a little more decent, I would have praised her wholesomely and doubtlessly as the most suitable candidate to stand at the top of St. Ririana Academy.

..... I wandered about with the map in my hand as I thought of that. Looks like I have finally managed to arrive at what looks to be the front door of my destination.

It's a samurai's mansion.

And it looks really heavy.

Well, both the hostel I am living in and that shabby apartment of Ginbe's have a sort of heavy feeling to them. However, the aura that this mansion is emitting is on another level in comparison.

Tall plaster walls; the elegantly planted trees in the courtyard; and the tiles of the roof that are slightly moldy - this building here feels more of like a citadel rather than a mansion.

It felt like there could be ancient warriors who are dressed in yukata opening the door and peeking out at any moment. That type of feeling.

Honestly speaking, this house is not quite fitting for a person like Nikaido Arashi. That girl has a rather slack personality despite her dressing up like a vagabond. If she lives in this sort of stubbornly solemn mansion, she will be breathless from the pressure. Ah, were her exceptional amount of lovers due to a result of that?

Whatever.

It's down to the last day of the house visits. The countermeasures to my sister's brother-complex shall come to an end here.

But it is a rather hastily planned countermeasure, so I had no idea what will happen

after that. Putting my faith in Nikaido Kaichou's words: 'I'll come up with a more solid plan during this period', I will have to endure through this day no matter what happens.



A polite female attendant led me into a small building by the corner of the courtyard.

It's a typical tea hut with a thatch roof and windows carved out of the clay walls.

.....

U-Urmمم.

This is quite an unexpected development.

By leading me to the tea-room, that means she will be serving me tea. I did not learn much about the etiquette of tea-drinking. I was hoping I would not embarrass myself during the house visits.....

Just as I was procrastinating uneasily, the female attendant urged me, "Please enter."

Oh well, since I was already there, I had no reason to walk away as well.

"Pardon my intrusion-

I prepared myself, and pulled the shouji aside,^[2]

"I have been waiting for your arrival."

The host of the tea-room welcomed me with both her three fingers gathered at a single point.

It was a woman who was wearing a kimono with her hair coiled up meticulously.

"Welcome to Nikaido's house. Please take a seat."

"Ah. Alright."

I would be shocked if you give me such a serious reception - I released the shouji lightly as I thought of that and sat on the cushion just as she had requested.

Naturally, I did a seiza.

Oh, but things are not looking too good.

I had no choice but to do so because of the atmosphere. As Takanomiya's house being a western-styled building, I was not too used to seiza. Hopefully, things will not turn into me not being able to stand up from my numb feet.

"Urm, I say."

In a small space that is literally three tatami-mats big, I shrunk my body and stared at the woman who was sitting in seiza before me.

It was as though she had worn that red houndstooth-checkered kimono to match the color of her hair.

If she sat in a posture with her back straightened, she will look just like a beauty of a painting.

Her line of sight is about as high as mine, which means she is rather tall for a girl-well, let's not care about that for the moment. What was she planning to do with me?

"Sorry. Urm, are you Kaichou's..... Nikaido-kaichou's elder sister?"

"No."

"Could it be that you are her younger sister then? I don't think you're her mother."

"I am Nikaido Arashi."

"Eh, your name is Nikaido Arashi huh. Nice to meet you. I am Himenokouji Akito. Please take care of me.Urm, well, where is Kaichou then?"

Then.

I tilted my head when I said that.

"..... Hmm? Huh?"

"You have acted exactly as I had anticipated. However, I am still surprised by the exaggeratedly way in which you've mistaken my identity."

She gave an elegant smile by covering the corners of her lips. She got her fingers together once more and did another bow,

"Welcome to my humble abode, Akito-sama. Just as you had seen, please do not mind that this crude house of mine. Please relax yourself and take a rest."

"Haa."

I still cannot figure what is going on. I blinked my eyes and looked at the lady in front of me.

A classic smile like that of Mona Lisa.

She was sitting in a calm and dignified manner, similar to that of a silent forest - it was as though she is a scholar who holes herself in the library.

I must have made a mistake somewhere.

It's impossible for her to be the president of the students council. I mean, she's someone who is always smiling confidently; someone who will die if she does not flirt once every five minutes; someone whose computer will spring up with the term 'lover' on the predicted list when you press the "A" button.^[3]

It should not be possible, but.

"Eh? Kaichou?"

"Yes."

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes, really."

"Eh, but what about the eye-patch that you have always been wearing? Your Japanese sword? I mean, why have you changed into a totally different person?"

"Ever since the olden days, the Nikaido family....."

Nikaido Arashi -self proclaimed- smiled lightly while saying,

"We are a family that focuses on drilling our martial arts and becoming bodyguards for the various nobles."

"Haa."

"Needless to say, the position of Nikaido family is much lower then compared to Himenokouji family. It's different if we are at school school. But at here, the Nikaido house, and as part of the Nikaido family to welcome you, I can only bow my head at its lowest and receive you respectfully."

"Haa."

Since I was still in a state of shock, I could only do these sort of stiff replies.

Well, she is not wrong.

There were all sorts of troublesome rules while I was at the Takanomiya family. Although the prestige of the Himenokouji family is similar to that of the Takanomiya, I will be troubled if she holds the Himenokouji family in high regards - since it is currently without a successor.

"In any case, please have a taste of the cup of the tea which I will prepare for you."

"Oh, do as you please."

"Well then."

After giving a bow, Nikaido-kaichou began brewing the tea.

Holding a small silk cloth and a ladle, she took the kettle that was heated by coal and poured the water into the tea bowl - to be honest, I am totally clueless about the tea ceremony, but it did feel like her actions were silky smooth.

"I can only offer you some coarse tea, but please have a drink."

I gently accepted the bowl that was offered to me and lifted it to my lips.

I rotated the tea bowl with my hands while pretending to be thinking about something, before sipping at it a few times to enjoy the taste thoroughly.

I did not know if what I did was acceptable. Then again, I am not in the situation where it is necessary for me to be following the rules strictly. I guess it will be fine as long as I am carrying myself seriously.

Anyway, it slid down my throat really comfortably despite its bitterness.

Hmm. Delicious.

"..... I am satisfied."

"Sorry for not offering you anything better. Does it suit your taste?"

Nikaido-kaichou gave a light smile,

"I am still not experienced in this. Please do not hesitate to give me your valued advice if I had done anything poorly."

"No, nothing of that sort. It was beautifully done."

"I do not deserve your praise."

"Or rather, I have not the slightest idea in things like this. It should be me asking you to point out any mistakes that I had made."

"There is no need for you to be reserved. Please relax yourself and rest."

"Ahh, I feel really nervous if you are to treat me like this. I say, Kaichou, don't you think it is about time you stop this?"

"Pardon?"

"That overly respectful attitude of yours feels off."

"That is because this is the house of Nikaido, and I am part of the Nikaido family."

Kaichou remained smiling as she said that.

Ahh, that's right.

The senpai of today is demure and dignified. She looks really mature despite us being only a year apart in age. It will be great if she can maintain this attitude of hers.

"Hey Kaichou. I have just noticed something."

"What is it?"

"I missed it thanks to the overly shocking revelation at the beginning..... but your eyes are perfectly fine, isn't it?"

That's right.

One of the unique features of Kaichou is her eye-patch.

I had actually thought there was something behind it, so I tried my best not to touch on the subject. But with the removal of that eye-patch..... aren't those a perfectly fine pair of eyes?

"Ahh, the eye-patch?"

Kaichou grinned.

"That is just an accessory."

"Accessory? That exaggerating eye-patch? What exactly are you thinking for wearing that sort of thing?"

"Because, Akito-sama."

With a chuckle,

"There will be a more chuu-ni-byou feel to me should I wear the eye-patch, which will make me look much cooler, right?"^[4]

"Eh? What? Chuu-ni?"

"Nothing. Please do not ask if you do not understand it."

Ignoring me as I tilted my head,

"My Japanese sword is an exceptionally conspicuous item. The eye-patch acts as buffer to steal away some of the attention so that they will pay less impression on my waist."

"There is indeed some truth to your reasoning behind it. But shouldn't you not wear your sword in the first place if you do not wish to attract the attention of others?"

"Due to some reasons, I am unable to do that."

"Really. I shall ask no further if you have your difficulties"

"Another thing. Please observe carefully, Akito-sama."

"? Observe what?"

The smiling Kaichou pointed to her own eye.

The right eye that has always been covered by the eye-patch.

..... Hmm?

Ehhhhh?

"Did I see things wrongly? I cannot see it that clearly thanks to the poor lighting..... But senpai, is the color of your right eye different? It looks slightly red."

"Yes. It is just as you see"

"Eh....."

It's the so called heterochromia iridum?

Though I have seen cats and dogs with those conditions, this is the first time I am seeing it on a person.

"The colors of my eyes will be much more conspicuous than the eye-patch or the sword. In other words, I am covering up the conspicuousness with other conspicuous things."

"I see, so that's how it is."

Ahh. Perhaps it is just like what she had said.

Putting aside the talk on how the special colors of her eyes are much more conspicuous as compared to the sword or the eye-patch. The unique features of one's body will usually be the cause of the person falling under the victims of bullying and etc - that is something that everyone knows.

What's more, with (what should be) an incredible amount of potential in Kaichou, she would easily encounter cases where 'the gun will fire at the exposed bird's head'.

In any case, as compared to maintaining the unique features that she is born with and exposing her own pain, it would be better to take the initiative and create other conspicuous features - she had probably chosen that very proactive option.

If one is to hide a tree, it is best to hide it the forest.

If one wishes to hide a conspicuous point, he just have to make other conspicuous points as well

That was just the tip of the iceberg to how capable Nikaido Arashi really is.

If you think about it, her way of speech and character settings may actually be part of all that as well. Ahhh, isn't that rather impressive?

"Oh, I did not realize that. I have never thought about the meaning behind the look of yours."

"I do not deserve your praise."

"Honestly speaking, Kaichou's typical attire does more than just stopping people in their tracks. But it is another thing altogether if there is a meaning behind that. Since you are born with eyes of different colors, then you will have to do the necessary countermeasures as well. Mmm, I can accept that."

"I really do not deserve your praise..... However, I should inform you that this is a contact lense."

"What the hell!?"

I could not help but to yell.

Ahh, damn. That was totally pointless in many different ways.

"What do you mean by that!? I really don't understand you at all!"

"The revealing of my different colored eyes after removing my eye-patch - this is just what I need to increase the impression of me being a chuu-ni-byou. Don't you think so?"

"How would I know!?"

"Also, this is a single-wear contacts. It will be very hygienic as long as I change it every day."

"I don't give a damn about that, and I mean it!"

"To continue on further, it can create a gap-moe when I remove the eye-patch. With that, the success rate of hooking my lover will move up by a stage."

"So it all boils down to that!"

I think this person here should a sincere apology. To think I was actually being considerate towards her situation as I was thinking about all these things in my head - in the end, it was all for nothing.

..... Forget it. Speaking of that.

I did feel slightly at ease now after seeing all these things. That was the truth.

I mean, we are at Kaichou's house, and the tea-house is an enclosed space.

Back when I was alone with Kaichou in the students council room, I was so close to falling into her trap due to my carelessness. To be honest, I arrived here in a state of high alert.

Well, Kaichou can't possibly be that stupid to disclose her tactics to someone whom she was about to hook. That's how I feel.

Then again, despite the huge change in my impression of her due to her appearance, Nikaido Arashi is still Nikaido Arashi after all - she is still a carnivore. It will be pointless for her to do that.

"How are you feeling now?"

Just then.

It was as though Kaichou had seen through my thoughts,

"If that can make you feel slightly more relaxed, then that will be for the best."

..... Sounds like you had it all planned out right from the start."

"If that is how you want to look at it ."

"Well, I guess I am more relieved now in a certain sense. Your appearance may have changed a lot, but you are still a beast on the inside. I do understand that much."

"Ahh. You sure know how to talk."

"No. I am not praising you, you know?"

"Kukuku."

Kaichou covered the tip of her mouth with her hands, and laughed elegantly like she had just now,

"It seems like Akito-sama has been really busy recently?"



"Hmm? Is that so?"

"It is obvious from the look on your face. You seemed troubled. And there is a hint of fatigue."

"Ahh. I guess, since I have been house-visiting for three consecutive days. It is natural

for me to become like that."

"And so, please relax yourself at my house. All these things are done just for that purpose. Everyone will need to refresh themselves from all the work and bustle."

"Ohh. To steal some rest amid the bustle - is that what you are saying?"

"Yes. Precisely that - rape in the room."^[5]

"..... Weird. It should be the exact same thing, but why does it sound so obscene when it is from Kaichou's mouth. I wonder why?"

"That is just your imagination."

"Kukuku," she laughed again elegantly.

"In any case, in view of the current situation of Akito-sama and Akiko-sama, it is necessary for me to come up with some sort of countermeasures quickly - that is how it is. These emergency house-visits will come to an end today, so I think there will be a need for something new tomorrow."

"Urm..... well, it may be a little..... but to me, I will prepare to hear about how we can prevent Akiko's appraisal in school from dropping, or something like that. It will be great if you can do that."

"It is not that simple. For us Nikaidos, we have no any intention of siding on the Takanomiya or Arisugawa. However, we will have to make some sort of report due to our positions. If we tried to cover things up shoddily, things may become a little....."

Uhh.

She may be saying that nicely with a smile, but to put it simply, what she meant is: "There will be lots of trouble waiting for you if you do not cooperate".

That's really troublesome.

From Kaichou's voice, it feels like she knew about my job as well.

It is not something that needs to be hidden, but I want to keep it a secret if possible..... then again, it is not something that I can hide forever. Putting aside people like Ginbe, who will remain silent due to the agreement between us gentlemen - Kaichou or Nasuhara will simply reveal the secret if they feel like doing so.

Forget it.

There is no point in thinking too deeply into things.

I had just transferred to St. Ririana Academy for only a few days.

And also,

"Due to some reasons, they were forced to be separated -omitted- compiled into a simple, boring story."

The above is what I wished to say, but it looks like I am straying in a direction that is way off the original path.

As for myself, Himenokouji Akito.

It's surprising, but I actually enjoyed the last few days despite the sudden chaos. It's true.

That's right.

Even though I put up with it for many years before managing to fulfill my ultimate objective: 'To live together with my younger sister'.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

Nikaido Arashi.

The members of the students council, together with me and my sister. I am starting to feel that it is not so bad for us to be involved in all these chaos.

"..... What's wrong, Akito-sama?"

"Eh? What's what?"

"No. Because a happy expression appeared on your face all of the sudden."

"Really? No, I don't really think so."

"I can easily notice things like that. Akito-sama may have enrolled to our school for only a few days, but I am the president of the students council. I can still see through that."

Uhh.

So she saw through me despite me having no intention of showing her that huh.

Or I may actually be showing those expressions unknowingly since I am feeling really happy right now.

I have became quite the honest guy.

"Still,"

Kaichou widened her smile and said,

"It is great that Akito-sama can enjoy his time here, regardless of the reasons behind it."

Once again, she gathered her fingertips and made a bow.

"..... Kaichou."

"Yes."

"Please do not act that way, really. I had said it many times already, you know?"

"And I shall stress it yet again. It is only natural for me to do this in our current situation due to my position."

"Whatever, you are not wrong. It is a rather huge gain for me to see a rare side of Kaichou. This side of yours is quite refreshing. So that's good."

"I do not deserve your praise."

"However, please turn back into the normal Kaichou from tomorrow onward, alright? I guess I still like the normal Kaichou more."

"....."

Mmm?

Kaichou froze while maintaining her bow.

"Kaichou?"

"..... This person is a natural when it comes to flirting."

Softly.

I heard her muttering something to the tatami.

"He showed his air-headed personality without reservations at the perfect moment. Now this type of person is really hard to deal with..... I nearly took whatever he said as the truth. I have no intention on making my move today, but it will be better if I eat him....."

"? Sorry, I couldn't quite hear you properly."

"No, please do not mind me."

Kaichou lifted her head while saying that.

With the exemplary smile still on her face,

"I have been on a diet recently. I think it will be better if I control my intake a little, that's all."

"Eh, is that so? But Kaichou's figure is that perfect. There is no need for you to be on a diet."

"Women are undergoing all sorts of hardships that cannot be seen. In order to endure through the hardship, one must have self-control that is tough as steel and yet flexible at the same time. That is what allows me to be me. That's how it is."

"Aha, self-control huh. Now that's a term that is quite out of Kaichou's reach."

"Ahh. But it is fine should you want it that way. I can throw away what you deemed as 'self-control that is out of my reach'."

"No no no."

Crap. There was a suspicious flash of light in Kaichou's eyes. Before anything can happen, I must-

"Let us not talk about that. Can I have another bowl of tea? The taste is really good."

"It feels like you are trying to cover up something, but I understand."

After returning to her elegant expressions, Kaichou began to brew some tea.

I had enjoyed her craft immensely, and that allowed me to spent my time leisurely.

..... Umm.

Well, it feels like I had finally managed to complete today's mission safely.

With that, I am done in clearing my responsibilities. So what awaits me is Kaichou's so called 'new tactics'.

Notes

1. Japanese onomatopoeia
2. Japanese paper frame door
3. 'lover' refers to 愛人 (あいじん), ai-jin.
4. 中二病, a saying that refers to the phenomenon of teenagers being overly self-conscious, and etc.
5. The previous line of 'steal some rest amid the bustle' was actually 忙中閑あり, while Kaichou said 房中姦あり. Both sound exactly the same.

Chapter 5: 12th April, AM9:00

The Himenokouji household have a habit of waking up early.

My sister wakes up at five in the morning so that she can do some housework and prepare our breakfast. I will wake up at six to make preparations for the morning as well. That's how it usually is.

However, that applies only for the normal days.

Take today for example. Both of us siblings will sleep till it's late since it is the school's rest day. The sleep which we lack during the normal days will be replenished on the rest day - that's how it is.

Not to mention, I transformed myself into a workaholic after the visit to Kaichou's house yesterday, and worked all the way until the sun rose high up into the sky before I head to bed. Not to hide it from you guys, but if I am to talk about how sleepy I am today, it is at the point where I will want to sleep even if I am to face any sort of torture.

But thanks to that, I finally managed to catch up on the work which I had set aside thanks to the house-visits for the past three days.

I did expect myself to be dead tired after forcing my body to finish my work. Having finished my work, I collapsed straight into my bed and prepared myself to sleep like a corpse - and just when I was about to fall asleep.

Something happened.

Kon kon

Kon kon

It was not the sound of coughs.

Instead, it was the sound of the door being knocked. I think. If it was not my auditory hallucination or something - I was in a half-asleep state even though I was thinking of that in my head, and my consciousness was very hazy. There were no strength in my limbs as well.

Don don

Don don

..... Ugh.

This time, the knocking of the door was louder than before.

Damn it, who the heck is that?

Me and my sister are the only ones living in this hostel. We did not subscribe to any delivery of newspaper nor milk. Then is it someone asking for some sort of payment?

No, how can that be? It's not the time to do so yet.

Don don dododon

Don dokodon

For some reason, the knocks followed the tempo of drumming.

.....

I had no idea who he is, but he seems to be in a good mood. To think I had actually worked overnight and killed countless numbers of my brain-cells in the process before I was about to finally liberate my own consciousness. It felt like the person was happily ignoring the my plight. Does benevolence and pity no longer exist in this world?

Dooon dodon, don dodondodon

Dondokodondon, dododondon

*Fine, fine, I get it. Coming, coming."

While replying with a tone that sounded like a mix of me moaning and dream-talking, I climbed out of my bed.

I walked in staggering steps similar to that of a zombie,

"Coming, who's that-

As I opened the door while rubbing my eyes, my sentence came to a halt.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi

Nasuhsara Anastasia.

Nikaido Arashi.

All three of them were people I am familiar with in their uniforms. Standing in front of the opened door.

Ginbe with her ridiculing smile.

Nasuhsara was still expressionless, as always.

Kaichou's smile looked as though she was about to eat someone up.



"Ah-..... Everyone has gathered her this early in the morning- uwhaaaaa-"

I greeted these three with a yawn,

"..... You girls are wearing your uniform despite it being the school's rest day."

"This is your first reaction after seeing this? Well, this is indeed your style. Kakaka."

"Haa."

Kaichou's laugh made my head hurt.

To be honest, I did not really want to hear that sort of sound in my current situation.

"Urm, sorry, but I am dead tired today. Can you leave the things for another time?"

"Oh, sorry, leave your sleep for later. We have some things that need to be settled before that."

"Haa."

Urm. Could it be.

I was done with my work only not too long ago. I was holding back for a rather long time. My mind, being in a dazed and confused state, could not get itself going. I may be unable to differentiate between dream and reality with my current state.

Mmm.

Perhaps this is actually me dreaming?

I mean, this is really weird, isn't it?

Why would the three girls gather at here?

And they are wearing their uniform for some reason.

"Since this still can be considered to be a school's activity, we thought we will wear them here."

Kaichou explained while smiling.

"Aside from private matters, the students of St. Ririana should wear their school uniform at all times. It is true that I do some pretty crazy stuff, but it won't do if I do not set a good example as the students council's president."

"Haa."

"Should I give you a really good wake-up call if you are still not awake? Oh right, how about taking a peek at my breasts? You will probably wake up with that, right?"

"No thanks."

Though I was really sleepy, I still replied to things like that immediately without hesitation.

"Hey look, what exactly is going on here? Everyone has gathered at the hostel. Are you guys going somewhere to play since it is a rest day today? I am fine with that, but do inform me earlier about it....."

"Nope, Akito. That's not it."

Ginbe shook her head,

"I am fine with the suggestion on going out to play. However, we should leave that for later since it will be getting really busy"

"Haa."

As I was still sleepy, I could not understand the meaning behind the words of my silver-haired friend.

What does she mean by 'really busy'? I had originally planned to sleep for all my worth until my body and soul are well rested, since it is rare for us to have a rest day.

"..... Hmm? Wait....."

I noticed something when my consciousness was coming back to me.

Strange, it seemed like the three person here had an uncanny amount of luggage with them?

Light backpacks, travelling cases..... All sorts of luggage were hanging from their shoulders to their hands to their elbows. It looks like they were about to abscond somewhere.

"Well, these are about all we can carry with our hands."

Upon noticing my gaze, Nasuhara lifted her luggage so that I could get a closer look,

"But we did manage to bring with us our daily necessities. The remaining luggage will be delivered here later in the day."

"Haa?"

What is she saying? I could not get it.

Well, they brought their own belongings, but so what?

"Also, you can be considered as the hostel's head. Something like that?"

Kaichou spoke once again,

"Putting aside our positions in school, you are the boss here since you got here first. Please take care of us."

"Haa..... And so? What are you guys doing here, gathering here like this?Ah, I see. It's a house-visit, right? I had visited your houses, so you girls have to visit mine, right? Ah, but even so, it is quite troubling for me if you do not inform me about it earlier. I am not prepared for your arrivals."

"The three of us will be living in this hostel from today onward."

"Haa."

"Though it is a hostel in name, it was practically an apartment resided solely by you siblings. We will have to set the rules for our cohabitation from now on. As the luggage for house-moving will arrive in waves later, today will be a busy day."

"....."

I rubbed my eyes and took another look at the three visitors.

Kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe. All three of them are looking at me with an expression that says 'how long are you planning to stay confused'.

From their expressions, it did not seem like they were joking.

And there was nothing like the 'Gotcha~' which you get from prank shows.

If so, there could only be one conclusion.

"..... Ah. I am indeed dreaming. Back to sleep I go."

"Oi oi hold on a second."

Kaichou jammed her foot into the door just as I was about to shut it.

"Well, we are wrong for disturbing you when you are about to sleep. Anyway, there are a lot of necessary preparations that needs to be done in order to live in this hostel, and we hope you can look through everything since you are the head of the hostel. You will probably not satisfied with a lot of things if you are to leave them till later when you wake up. Are you sure you will be fine with that?"

"....."

"Mmm? What's wrong?"

"Urm, sorry."

"It's nothing."

"Really?"

"Yes. Really really, really. Isn't that right, Fuku-Kaichou?"

"That's right. This is the absolute and undeniable truth. Isn't that right, Ginbe?"

"That's right, Akito. It's about time you wake up and recognize the reality in front of you."

"....."

With that, my mind became awake in an instant.

The impact was too great on me. It felt as if time came to a halt. I was like a cat that was about to be hit by an incoming car,

"Eh, but isn't this strange?"

"What is?"

"There are plans for this hostel to be demolished within this year. Me and my sister will be the only ones living here till that happens - that is how the contract should be."

"Well, I did something to the management and made them change the contract."

"Why? Why must the three of you move into this hostel together?"

"I should have said that earlier, did I not? We need to resolve your sister's brother-complex as quickly as possible, and we had considered many approaches to that problem."

"No, I had indeed heard of that-"

"So the most effective approach to her brother-complex is,"

Nasuhara was next.

"To prevent you siblings from spending more time together than it is necessary, we will have to monitor both of you. As such, the best solution is to live together with you two. Am I wrong?"

"No, you may be right, but even so-"

"Killing two birds with one stone. That is how it is, Akito."

Ginbe interrupted as well,

"Instead of being suspected by others due to you siblings living by yourselves, wouldn't it be much better in the eyes of the outsiders to see both of you living with some other students whom you are not familiar with? Isn't that good enough for you?"

"No, I understand. It's just like what you had said!"

I raised my voice after hearing those things from them.

"But why? Why the three of you together!?"

"Because, since we've formed of our temporary alliance, we will be advancing and retreating together - then again, we agreed that this better for us too. It's about time that I get sick of that oppressive samurai mansion. And it takes way too much time to travel to school."

"My relationship with my parents has been on the bad side for a while. Since I am now in my rebellious phase, I have always felt like running away from home if I get the chance to."

"As for me, my financial situation is very tight thanks to me moving to another house and school. I am even having trouble with paying the rent of that shabby apartment. To be able to live in this place where I can get food and stuff without spending much - this is something that I could only dream of."

"No, even so-"

Darn.

I finally realized how serious the situation is.

I did think about this before.

Even though it was chaotic, I did not find the past three days tiring. In fact, I really liked it.

I did think to myself before that it's not bad to do stupid things with the fellow

members of the students council.

Well, it's also true that I am anticipating Kaichou's so called 'new tactics'.

B-But?

If we are to talk about my reason for enduring all the hard work I had done for the past few years, where the amount is not something that I should be undertaking for someone my age.

It was so that I can live together with my only remaining family member, my sister - with the two of us living a calm and relaxed life.

I definitely do not dislike Ginbe, but that applies even for Kaichou or Nasuhara as well - not to mention, we are all in the students council. But it just so happens that all of them are people with one or two troublesome personalities. Not to mention, it seemed like they were hatching a certain unspeakable plan for my sister,

"N-No way! There is no way this will work! There's a lot of problem to this, yeah!?"

"Just to let you know, everything has been decided already."

"As the head of this hostel, I vehemently object!"

"Well then Himenokouji Akito, under the orders of the president of students council, your position as the hostel's head has been now abolished. I shall replace you as the hostel's head as well. How about that?"

"That's tyranny! You're unreasonable!"

"Alright, just give up already. As the president, my powers are absolute. Not to mention, the council has already agreed to this. There is nothing you can do to overturn this decision."

"I've had enough. There is no point talking with Kaichou — Nasuhara! Nasuhara!?"

"Yes?"

"Say something too!"

"Wuzzat?"

"Stop pretending to be stupid! And you're not even trying!"

"How rude. That is a very serious insult to someone who is hailed as the shining beacon of the emerging talents by the top brass of the cross-talk society. Take back those words immediately if you do not wish to be indebted with a sum of money so huge, you will not be able to pay it off even if you spent your whole life fishing for tuna at the ocean."

"I don't really care for your fake, silly acting!"

"It is about time you watch how you act. Otherwise, I will get angry even if I am someone who's very gentle."

"What do you mean by watching how I act!?"

"I said before already, I want you to address me by Anna instead of Nasuhara. If you don't listen to my warning obediently, I'll change all the underwear in your dresser to their female counterparts."

"I really have to thank you for using two of your favorite gags together at once! Although that hardly matters right now!"

"Incidentally, they will all be changed to my lingerie. Those used ones."

"You are someone who may actually do it, so please don't! Also, it feels like all those things you've said are irrelevant to our current topic on hand!"

"Just give up already. I had said it before, did I not? Having faced such humiliation, I'll repay them back in full. This is my full revenge for you toying with me so happily."

"I don't remember toying with you-

"Prepare yourself. From today onward, I'll be harassing you without reason everyday regardless of day or night, and without wasting a single minute or second. You shall regret for humiliating me with the rest of your life."

"You just want to bully me, don't you!?"

Ahhh, enough!

It will be a waste of time to speak to her any further!

Then-

"Oi, Gin! Ginbe!"

"What's up, Akito?"

"Why are you on their side as well!? Putting Kaichou and Nasuhara aside, I thought you are a much more sensible person than this!"

"I can't help it. Isn't there a saying that goes: 'one will get stained red should he be close to vermillion'? It's the same for me too. I am a student of St. Ririana Academy for now, but I also am a member of the students council. Isn't it inevitable for me to be dyed by their colors much faster and thicker?"

"Aren't you my friend? No wait, my good friend!? I am obviously in trouble, right!? You'll not get struck by lightning if you offer a helping hand, right!?"

"Fufu. Since you call me as your good friend, I'll say this - it's just as you've feared back when I hosted you at my shabby apartment - I am currently facing a huge crisis in my life. You should know that there is only so much saving and scrimping one can do. I am about to receive subsistence allowance, and the most effective way to get past my crisis is to move into a hostel to seek shelter. That will reduce my living expenses by a substantial amount..... Akito, you should be the one who is inviting me over to the hostel so as to help me out, isn't that right? Only then can you be considered as a friend."

"That- no, that may be the case!"

"Or do you have other ideas? Are you planning to chase me out despite knowing about the embarrassing problems that I am facing? That is how you will treat me, your good friend and savior?"

"Uhh."

"Since you are indebted to me, shouldn't you repay me the favors at times like this? We even talked about it a few days ago. 'I'll not hesitate to seek Akito's help when I really need it - in fact, that scenario may actually happen in the near future'. I believed in you, my good friend."

That's bad.

Compared to Kaichou and Nasuhara, Ginbe is actually the most terrible opponent at times like this. Just like how I had mentioned repeatedly, I was under her care several times. I have no choice but to solemnly do whatever she says, even if it is things like 'Commit seppuku now so as to repay me the favors I had done for you'.

But with things coming down to this.

There are no way out.....or should I say that I was checkmated? How about, my lifelines are all sealed.....?

"Fuwa..... what's happening early in the morning?"

Just then.

My sister waddled out from her bedroom in her pajamas,

"Since today's rest day, allow me to sleep as much as I like, Onii-chan..... Onii-chan was way too awesome last night....."

"Oi oi Akiko. Don't talk thrash the moment you step out of your room. Ever since we were born and until the end of time, we did not and will never do anything that is against our conscience."

"There you go again Onii-chan, you are really good with your jokes~..... Fuwa."

My sister gave a loud yawn.

It's plain as day now. I had said this earlier on.

Her state of mind is terrible when she just wakes up.

".....Mmm? Eh? Why is Nikaido-senpai here? Both Nasuhara and Ginbe are here as well."

"Oh good day, Himenokouji. The three of us will be living in this hostel a few days later. Please take care of us?"

"Ahaha- That's a rather interesting joke there, senpai. How can there be anyone who dares to do something as reckless as coming to our apartment and stirring up troubles at me and my brother's love-nest..... Well, whatever, I am going back to bed. Keep your volume down."

"..... Uh. Those misty pair of eyes. That slurred and weird tone of hers..... She is totally not awake, right?"

"Nope~. Akiko is totally awake~. I am full of vigor and energy~"

"Himenokouji. There is something that I want to discuss with you."

"Mmm~?"

"Can you allow me to sleep with you? Ahh, I woke up rather early as well, and it just so happens that I feel a little sleepy now. I only require a corner of your bed."

"Alright~, that's nothing. Munyu munyu."

"Oi oi wait a second, Akiko!?"

I interrupted hastily.

"Do you know what you are saying!? The person is Nikaido Arashi!? -And also, Kaichou! What are you planning to do to my sister in front of me!?"

"No, I'll just be sleeping with her for a while. I will not actually do it."

"I can't trust you!"

"No no no, it really is just a short snooze, I will do nothing, really. Just a little on the head."

"On the head, what head!? There is no way I will let this happen! Please do not get close to my sister!"

"Che, what a mouthy person you are. Oi Nasuhara, Ginbe. Restraine him. This is an order from the president."

"I am sorry, but I will not follow your order."

"Mhmm. We do have our hierarchy in the students council, but there is no need to be following Kaichou's instructions at a time like this."

"Listen to me. If I can take this opportunity to make Himenokouji my lover, then the problem of Himenokouji's brother-complex will be more or less settled. The elder brother's sister-complex will no longer be a big problem as well, you know?"

"Understood. I am not enthusiastic about it at all, but then it cannot be helped since this is an order from Kaichou."

"Mhmm. Though it is really regretful for me to say this, I have no choice but to follow it since this is Kaichou's orders. Despite my grief, there are no other options but to restrain Akito."

"Oi oi! Slow down, both of you!?"

"I will not let you get in the way of Kaichou and Himenokouji. Since you are part of the students council, you do know that defying Kaichou's orders means death, do you not?!"

"Since when have the students council came under such strict regimes!? Nasuhara, don't be complying to Kaichou only at times like this! I will have to save my sister's chastity from Kaichou's evil grasp!"

"Uhh. To be that agitated by something like this..... Akito, you are indeed a severe sis-con, aren't you? This is a serious situation if the siblings of the students council are in a relationship of love. There is a need to rectify this as quickly as possible."

"No wait, this is just a misunderstanding, Ginbe! I am neither a sis-con nor are we in love with each other! Look, typically speaking, one should be stopping Kaichou in a situation like this, right!? Being Akiko's elder brother and all!"

"Fuwaaa..... It looks like you guys are in some sort of entanglement. I am nearly at my limits, so let me return back to sleep. Fuwaaa....."

"Ohhh, I am sorry for making you wait, Himenokouji. Let's forget about that boring entanglement for now. Allow me be entangled with you in another way. Don't you worry, it will be nothing. Believe in my techniques."

"Or rather, that's the main problem here is the fact that your skills are overly trustworthy, Kaichou! Oi, it is about time that you wake up, Akiko! I am sorry to say this, but your elder brother is currently being held down by Nasuhara and Ginbe, and I can't move an inch! You have to protect your own body! Damn, forget about Ginbe, but why is Nasuhara that strong as well!? I do know a little self-defense, and I am a guy here! Damn, this students council has way too many capable members..... Oi Kaichou! Please value yourself more! Nasuhara and Ginbe, stop restraining me by locking me down on my joints! Oi, oi! Really, don't! Oi~!"

- ♡ -

..... That's roughly it.

Lots of things happened, but I had finally managed to avert the crisis where my sister's chastity was in danger.

Speaking about how the students council members are moving into the hostel - I guess it is natural for that to happen. Or rather, I sort of anticipated that already. It is something that will happen no matter how much I am against it.

Ahh, what a headache. It's already chaotic to begin with. And now, Kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe has formed the anti-sister alliance are beginning with their actions as well. I am also looked down by them as a sis-con.

I am besieged from all sides, alone without any support.

To think I thought that I can finally live a peaceful life together with my sister. It has not even been a month yet, and things are already like this.

Ahh, things are in a really terrible state right now.

It should not be like this despite my miscalculations.

It will be troublesome, but I guess I will have to try my hardest to maintain a good relationship with the three people whom I think I am getting along well with. What I am left with is to think positively.

Oh boy.....

Chapter 6: 13th April, PM2:00

The school's having a rest on the next day as well.

I will be meeting someone from my work during the day.

She was introduced to me via Ginbe's networks. I had acted rather irresponsibly towards her for a brief moment of time. To be honest, I will not be able to lift my head up in front of her.

This person is in charge of me is someone with a really high tolerance, so I do act slightly spoiled towards her. However, I dragged the dateline to its absolute limit this time round, so that made her cry.

"Ah. Akito."

We've agreed to meet at an economical tea-house that is located at the corner of a shopping street a slight distance away from the train station.

She was sitting at the deepest corner as usual.

"Nice to see you, Jinno. Sorry to have made you wait."

"It's nothing. I reached here not too long ago~"

Kaaruko Jinno, twenty-five years old.

Her distinctive features are her childish face despite her age, her gentle smile and those slightly drooping eyes. She is my editor.

"No, I am really sorry. I pushed the dateline too far."

"It's nothing. Waiting is part of my job as well~"

"It's great if you can think it that way. Really."

"But Akito, our president have high hopes on you. He thinks you have the potential to go far. Putting aside the point on the deadline for now, it will be difficult for me if you do not repay those expectation of you, you know~"

"Ah, you are totally right about that. However, if possible, I'll like to resume on our work....."

"Right. Let us get down to business."

I ordered a cup of hot red tea, while Jinno chose hot cocoa with whipped cream. We then returned to our seats.

"To conclude~....."

Jinno said while taking out a stack of papers from her bag,

"This draft is really wonderful. The new emotional entanglement between the

characters felt extremely real. I became engrossed in the story, and before I knew it I was already done with the whole thing.."

"Thanks for your praises."

"However, some of the parts where you write with your feelings and emotions comes off a little raw. Let us correct those areas one at a time. Firstly~"

.....Well.

I guess you should have understood by now.

This is what allows me to maintain my livelihood. It is something I am trying to hide from the people around me - including my younger sister. I am someone who lives by using his pen - in another words, I am an author.

I am no writer either, since I am mainly writing novels that are published on their own. I have no intention of boasting, but I guess I can call myself a novelist. Though the sales of my books and my popularity are still not on the level where I can introduce myself proudly as one.

"..... Well, that is roughly it~. Do you have any opinions on that, Akito?"

"Nope, none. All those things that you've pointed out are true. I do think that they need some small improvements. I'll rewrite the areas mentioned by you."

"I understand. Akito is really straightforward about things like these, so it that makes it much easier for me as well~"

"Ahh, I am always pulling you down when it comes to the deadlines, so I'll try to be as obedient as I can when it comes to things like this."

"And it's just like what you've said~. Akito still drags the deadline like thisDespite being a newcomer. Typically speaking, that is unthinkable, you know~?"

"Ahh, you're right. I'll settle everything properly."

It may sounds like she was preaching me, but the expressions on Jinno's face were really gentle. I was not frightened by her a single bit; instead, I was healed by her words.

She's honest and serious. She may not be very efficient in her work, but she is passionate. Jinno is someone who is well loved by her fellow colleagues and superiors.

I do not wish to create anymore troubles for her if possible, and I did think of helping her getting the recognition she deserves by churning some well-selling books. But with the way things are, I am still only a newcomer.

"Well, that's our president for you."

Said Jinno with an expression akin to that of a napping dog with its belly exposed.

"I too have high hopes for Akito's talents as well. You managed to come up with a draft like this despite having only a few volumes under your belt. It's really impressive

considering your age. There is an oppressive feeling in your work..... and yet Akito is someone with a gentle and mature personality. How exactly do you manage to write novels like these....."

"Well, it is because my private life has been slightly chaotic. It became hard for me to find time for the draft. In the end, I was forced finished everything in a single night. Something like that. It is not something that is desirable."

"Uh- mmm. It is partially due to that, but....."

Jinno smirked and muttered,

"Hey Akito. I am saying this not as your editor, but from my own stand."

"Haa. Yes?"

"I am thinking..... Akito, you are a sis-con, aren't you?"

"Ha?"

The unexpected question stunned me.

"Eh? Me? A sis-con?"

"Yes. You are one, Akito."

"No no no no, what are you talking about? I am not a sis-con."

"Eh~? Is that so?"

Ahhhhh, damn.

So it's not only the members of the students council who misunderstood me, but Jinno as well.

"I admit I do dote on my younger sister a lot. She is my only relative left, and after we were forced to live apart, I'll have to dote on her even more. You are right to say that I care about my sister much more than anyone else in the world. But as her relative - as her elder brother, that is only natural, right?"

"Really? Is that how it is?"

"Well of course. Without a doubt."

"But but Akito."

It is rare of Jinno to continue talking on the matter.

"Akito will do some of these things, right? For example, making a notebook that's named something along the lines of 'Sister's Dairy' and recording on it on a daily basis, right? What your sister has eaten that day, what she has said, how many times she was angry, and how many times she laughed - things like that."

"But of course? As her elder brother, it is only natural for me to be concerned about the situations that my sister is in at all times. Not to mention, I am currently taking on the role of her parents as well."

"And, Akito will take lots of pictures of your sister and print them all out, before framing them up and storing them properly, right?"

"Yeah, of course? There are many old photos which negatives I no longer possess. Even for those which I do possess, I will still print them all out and store them properly. Is there anything wrong with that?"

"..... Uhh- mmm. If so, you cannot consider that as normal, can you? I don't think any elder brothers in this world who are normal will do these things to their younger sisters....."

Oh my.

That had quite a bit of impact on me.

Let us not talk about those overly suspicious group of people from the students council. To think that the editor whom I trust, Jinno, is actually saying things like that as well. I did not anticipate that at all. I do think she is a very capable editor, but being a little too subjective is perhaps the only tiny flaw of hers.

"I might as well take this opportunity to clear things up. Jinno, that is just your misunderstanding. You are totally wrong and you cannot be more wrong than that."

"Ehhhhh~? Is that so?"

"To begin with, you are wrong for thinking that I am just a typical elder-brother. Our parents are no longer around, and we siblings were separated for a long time before we finally got back together again. I am not just her elder-brother, but I have to take on the role as her parents as well. Parents will always be concerned about the growth of their children, right? They will use cameras, video-cams and such to record the looks of their children, right? That's exactly what it is. There is absolutely nothing suspicious about it."

"Urmmmm~....."

"Also, Jinno is the only child, right? If so, it's not really convincing when you say things like 'you are different from the typical elder-brothers'."

"Uuuuhhhh..... B-But?"

Jinno refused to give up.

"I do think that Akito's works are really charming. It is devoid of those so-called 'fan-service' that are found typically in many of the recent works. Instead, it is giving off an intense feeling that says 'Read my novels rather than those things! Now how's that!?'."

"Thank you for your praise. I am really happy to hear that from you."

"But to be honest, the contents of your works are rather picky in its readers. That is not something really good for the sales."

"I have no excuse for that..... Sorry to have troubled you."

"However, even though Akito's works only caters to a small group of readers, they will be supporting your work for life if they fall in love with them - that's how it is. That's

what your works are. Our president is rather optimistic about that part. So even though the profits are slightly..... no, they are quite low, but we are still continuing on our investments in Akito's talents."

"Thank you for that. If not for the hopes our president has on me, it would have been impossible to acquire living expenses required for me and my sister."

"And also. From what you've said just now, Akito had denied the fact that you are a sis-con, right?"

"Yeah, that's how it is."

"Then-"

Jinno took out a book from her bag.

And turned its cover towards me.

While hiding behind the book, she peeked at me and said timidly.

"What do you have to say about the fact that you had written a work like this, Shindou Koichirou-sensei?"

If you want to ask what sort of book is that, it's nothing major, really.

<The Story of Forbidden Love> - that's my debut work.

"I see your point."

I think I understand.

But at the same time, I felt rather helpless as well.

"Jinno."

"Yes."

"You are suspicious of me because of that?"

"That is because-"

She said in a rather bewildered tone,

"This book here - it's a novel with a theme on incestuous relationship, right?."

"Yes. That's right."

"The names of the main characters are Akio and Akina, right?"

"Yes. That's right."

"..... Ugh....."

Towards Jinno, who could no longer carry on with her words,

"I guess I understand what you are trying to say."

"Well, yes. In any case, what I want to say is....."

"It's simple, Jinno. That misunderstanding of yours will be solved in an instant. All I need is one sentence and you will be able to accept it immediately."

"One sentence? What is it?"

"It will not do to confuse fiction with reality."

I shrugged and laughed.

"That can't do, Jinno. Putting aside the typical readers for a second, I am rather shocked to hear those words from you."

"R-Right..... U-Urm..... but Akito-"

"Of course, in order to make it easier for me to inject in my feelings, I had given the main characters names that are similar to us two. But a fiction is just that - something that is fabricated. There is a line that goes: 'This story is a work of fiction, and has no relation with any existing person, groups or organization', right?"

"Though that is not wrong..... Urmhhh? Eh~?"

Jinno was moving her head about repeatedly.

"Is that so? It somehow feels like something is wrong....."

"That is just your illusion. Get a grip. You are my editor."

"Y-Yes. I will do just that.Uh, well then, these are basically my opinions for this draft. However, please do not ever push the dateline again, since it will cause our schedule to be very tight - try to arrange it such that there is more room for allowance..... ok?"

"Understood. I can be considered as a professional as well. I'll handle my work properly. That's fine, right?"

"Mmm, then I shall leave things in your care."

"Well, let's stop for the day. My sister start ranting if I am away from home for too long."

"Is that so? So your sister rant at you~..... Ah, Akito, do you want to go somewhere for lunch? As a sort of celebration, since your draft has been completed."

"Ah- I am sorry, but I think my sister has cooked and is waiting for me. Perhaps next time."

"Ah, that's how it is~. How regretful."

"Well, that's all for today then. Thank you for your hard work."

"Thank you.Hmmm? Eh?"

..... Even as we parted, Jinno was still tilting her head and saying, "it still feels a little weird."

Am I that untrustworthy?

Whatever. It's mainly my fault for her not giving me her full trust. I should be able to gain back the trust by continuing to work hard.

And that's it. It's better if I hide from Jinno the fact that my sister is a die-hard fan of my works. It will probably become the reason for yet another misunderstanding if she comes to know this.



Alright.

With that, the story has came to an end. For now.

"Due to some reasons, they were forced to be separated -omitted- compiled into a simple, boring story."

— That was what I had initially said, though it was derailed rather spectacularly yet again as per usual. I am already tired of apologizing repeatedly for going back on my words.

If so, I shall not go against the flow of whatever that has happened till now. Instead, I should take on a proactive stand and record the chaotic days that are about to come.

Also, I am not sure if this is something fortunate or troublesome - probably more of the latter

It's just as though fate is responding to what I had written earlier. Another troublesome thing is about to strike.

Therefore, I shall give a simple preview.

In the future, the truth about me and my sister not being blood-related will be exposed.

..... Well then, may we meet again.

Omake - Initial Drafts



It will be my job to assist you in the navigation of the initial drafts.



The initial Himenokouji has no hair accessory. Those flattering expression of hers really pisses me off. It has even triggered my killing instinct for a brief moment.

Arashi
Nikaido

現在とほとんど差がないわね。今も昔も変わることなく、全身からケダモノっぴりがにじみ出ているあたり、心の底から残念な人だと言わざるを得ないわ。



There is not much difference from the current version. Her present form is the same with that of the past. It is a real shame that her whole body is emitting the aura of a wild beast.



This person did not change much from the initial draft as well. It is to the point where I can really see no change, so it is hard for me to make any sort of comments.



かと思えばこういう
のが出てくるのね。まあ
現在とはまったくの別人
と言つていいでしよう。今
のバージョンにしてもら
えて、彼としてはラッキー
だったのではないかしら。



Akito
Himen...co.jp

..... I never thought he was initially designed to be someone who's tough looking. That is totally different from who he currently is. With the way things are, it may actually be a blessing for him to be in his current state right now.

以上で初期ラフ集の紹介はおしまいよ。
：わたくしの分？　わたくしに初期の設定など存在しないわ。
かつても今も、そしてこれからも、わたくしはわたくしのままであり続けるのだから。
：わたくしの資料がどうしても見てみたい？　仕方ないわね。

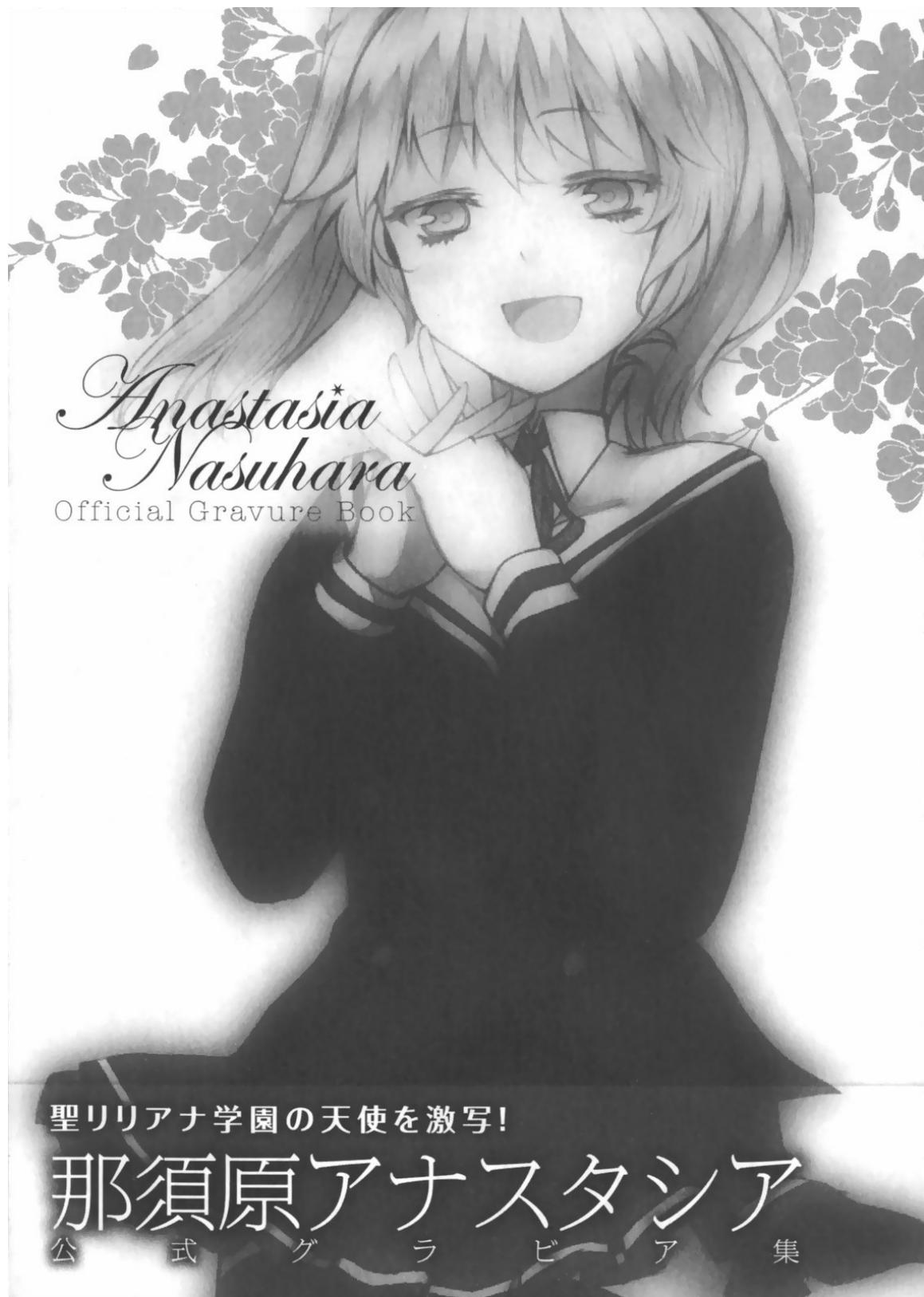


That is all to the introduction of the initial drafts.

..... What about my initial drafts? There isn't such a thing as an initial draft for me.

That is because I will always be myself, regardless of the past, present or future.

..... So you are dying to see my design data? I guess it can't be helped.



Intense photo-shooting of the Angel of St. Ririana Academy!

Nasuhara Anastasia





：まあさつとこんな
ところかしら。ここ
までたつぶりサービ
スしてあげたのだから
ら、次の巻も必ず買
いなさい。いいわね？



..... Well, that is roughly it. After offering you these services, be sure to buy the next volume. Get it?

Credits

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Illustrator	—	(閨月戈) Gekka Uruu
Publisher	—	<u>(メディアファクトリー) Media Factory</u>
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お只今やぐたが
愛されあれば
関係なしもわづ

Daisuke Suzuki
Illustration
鈴木大輔
閨月戈

2

バカなの?
死ぬの?



… けども違うと思ったの?

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